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DIY Valentine's

Spice things up this year with a fancy-schmancy homemade meal.
PAGES 26

Saska-BOOM!

WHY SASKATCHEWAN IS SO SEXY RIGHT NOW PAGES 14-15

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Tasered boy failed by child-welfare system: Report

Rocky life. The Taser incident occurred in 2011, six days after the boy was moved to a new group home, his 15th move since 2001

Children in B.C. with complex care needs that can manifest themselves in violent rages deserve more from the child-welfare system than being locked in windowless rooms or tranquilized by doctors, says a report detailing the failed care of an 11-year-old boy who was zapped by an RCMP Taser.

Serious errors made by the Ministry for Children and Family Development left the boy open to abuse and neglect in his family home and in the numerous other homes he was placed in by the ministry, said the report released Thursday by B.C.'s children's representative Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond.

One foster family regularly kept the boy locked in a shed located on a rural property. Another put him in cold showers to punish him for wetting his bed, and his parents raised him for the first two years of life in an atmosphere of domestic violence, alcohol abuse, starvation and neglect, the report stated.

The report finds 22 critical-injury reports involving the boy, including nine injury reports following the April 2011 police Taser incident in Prince George which made national headlines.

"The sad reality of this report is that the Tasering by the police of this boy at 11 years old is probably one of the least traumatic things that happened to him when I look at the 22 critical incidents reported to my office, including nine since the Tasering," Turpel-Lafond said at a news conference. THE CANADIAN PRESS

3... 2... 1... HISSSSSSSS

A 40-foot-long snake at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden heralds the coming of Chinese New Year this Sunday. The snake, by artist Alastair Heseltine, is made from green willows and will sprout in the spring. Story, page 8. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

With a day off here, and a day off there

Here a day, there a day, everywhere (in B.C.) a day off PAGE 4

Brazeau on the outs

Senator out of Conservative caucus, and into jail? PAGE 12

Schneider has near-perfect game

But what else is new? PAGE 31

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'Extremely despondent'

Accused West End stabber had 'mental breakdown': Defence lawyer

Friends and family are sticking by the man accused of going on a stabbing spree in Vancouver's West End last week.

Unshaven and his right arm still in a cast, Jerome Bonneric made his second brief appearance in Vancouver Provincial Court Thursday. Bonneric's lawyer Bob Bellows, who did not apply for bail, said his client is still "extremely despondent" and saddened by what happened.

"It was absolutely out of character for him," he told reporters outside court. "This was a horrible mental breakdown that occurred."

The former real estate consultant and law student came to Vancouver about two years ago and was believed to be staying with a friend in the apartment building at 1263 Barclay St. where seven residents and a police officer were injured.

Two victims remain in hospital, but both are expected to survive. A 28-year-old woman is in stable condition and a 24-year-old woman is still listed in very serious condition.

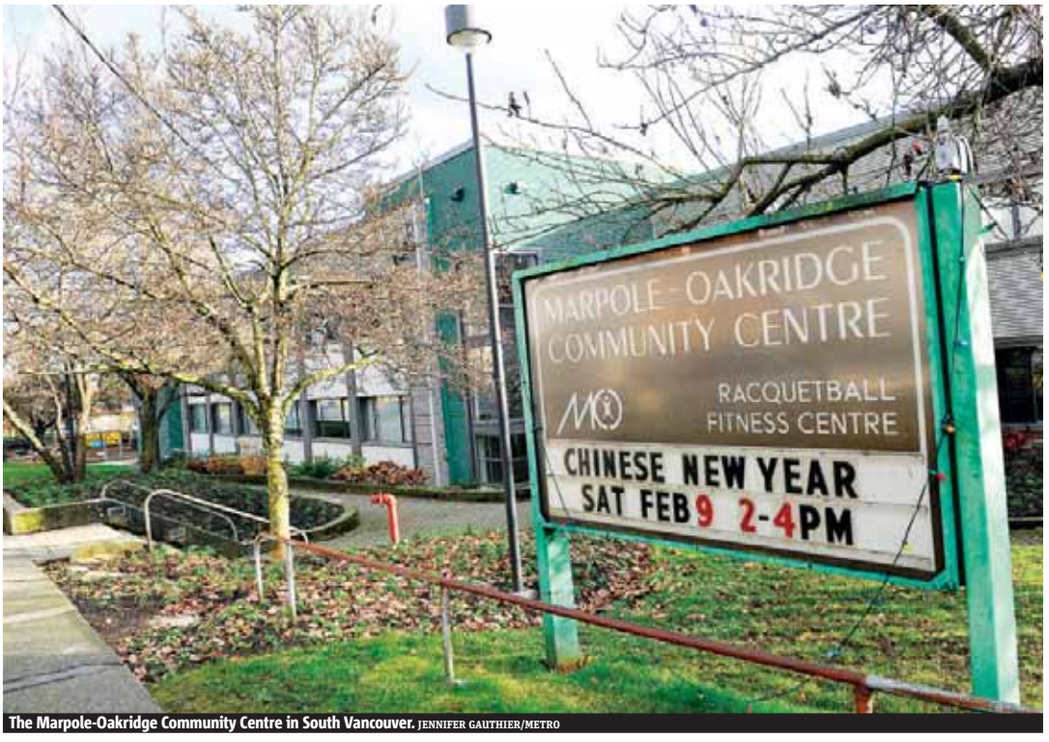
Jerome Bonneric
COURTESY OF LINKEDIN

Bellows has said that Bonneric was released from St. Paul's Hospital prior to the Jan. 31 stabbings, but couldn't say why he was there.

Bonneric was charged with four counts of aggravated assault, four counts of assault with a weapon, three counts of common assault and one count of assaulting an officer.

Bonneric will remain in custody until his next court appearance Feb. 27.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO



The Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre in South Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Centre hopes to level playing field

Park board saga.
Marpole's community association president looking for alternative to redistributing revenue

EMILY JACKSON
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Sure, it's down at the bottom on Vancouver park board's "have-not" list, and, yes, it's all for a little more equality between community centres.

But the Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre, the centre in Vancouver's poorest neighbourhood according to a city ranking, still isn't a big fan of the park board's proposal to collect all the revenue and redistribute it to level the playing field.

Instead, Marpole's community association president Danny Yu is looking for a way forward with an idea for an alternative financial model — a middle ground that's been largely absent from the saga between the board and the city's 23 centres as they negotiate a new operating agreement.

Yu suggests a taxing model where the board and associations come up with a formula where a percentage of revenue would go to the board based on size, programs or usage.

The current model, where the associations don't give up any revenue to the park board despite getting the buildings rent free, isn't working perfectly, Yu said.

"If you have a store in a shopping mall, you pay rent," he offered as a comparison to his proposal. "That leaves a little bit for volunteers to continue to provide good programming, and the park board gets their money."

A similar idea was rejected about two years ago at an Association Presidents Group (APG) meeting, he said, but it will likely be more palatable since the board's proposal to control all revenues. Former park board commissioner Stuart Mackinnon proposed a similar idea in a recent blog post.

Both APG chair Kate Perkins of Trout Lake and park board commissioner Niki Sharma did not want to discuss potential funding models as the matter will be negotiated at the bargaining table.

"All ideas will be welcomed at the table. We will take a look to see what works to meet the goals of better equity and access," Sharma said in an email.

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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

ANOTHER HOLIDAY?

Metro's Kate Webb reports on another reason to boast about being a British Columbian — the province now ties Saskatchewan for mandatory statutory holidays at 10 per year

B.C.'S FIRST FAMILY DAY

By the time B.C.'s first-ever Family Day rolls around this Monday, this province will be leading the country in number of mandatory statutory holidays workers will enjoy every calendar year, tied only with Saskatchewan, which also has 10.

Alberta, Ontario and Nunavut get nine, while Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders have the fewest, with just five paid days off outside their vacation days to break up the work year.

"For too long, we were one of the few provinces with no holiday between New Year's and Easter, which stretches 86 days this year," the premier's office explained via email.

(That's not exactly true — according to statutoryholidays.com, seven other provinces and territories are still stuck with that stretch — but who's counting?)

Hundreds of B.C. cities, community centres, ski hills and other businesses are carpe-ing the diem this Monday with special events and deep discounts on family activities — but not everyone will be joining in on the fun.

Most federal employees, who already get 11 paid holidays per year, do not get Family Day off, unless they requested it and are using one of two paid flex days.

Laura Jones, executive vice-president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), said many small-business owners will also be stuck at work to avoid having to choose between paying time-and-a-half and losing sales.

The CFIB, which represents 10,000 small- and medium-sized businesses in B.C., estimates the holiday will cost the average small-business owner more than $1,100.

"You have to do a lot of sales to make that up," Jones said. "For a lot of business owners, it's not going to feel too much like Family Day because they're going to be working extra hours away from their family to pay for some of those additional costs."

Despite B.C.'s apparent generosity compared to other provinces, many European countries with economies both great and collapsed give their workers two to three times as many stats as B.C., and polls suggest Canadians aspire to be more like them.

A survey on work benefits conducted by international human-resources consulting firm Mercer last year found Canada was the only country out of 10 polled whose workers said they would choose additional paid time off over a salary increase.

The province is celebrating its step toward making that dream come true by spending $1.5 million on celebrations throughout the province. For details, visit metronews.ca and search "Family Day."

How will you spend the day?

"I don't have a lot of plans; probably just enjoying the day off, staying home with my pregnant wife. She's at two months."

Evan O'Connor

"We're actually going to be travelling home to visit all of our family in Ireland. My brother-in-law is getting married on Valentine's Day, so Family Day has been very handy. We need one less day of holidays."

Julie O'Connor, pictured with son Jack, two months

"I'm going to work, but from home. I'm an instructor, so I have to get ready for the week. We don't have kids, but he's family," she said, pointing to her dog, Josh. "There was snowboarding in the tentative plans, but I don't think that's going to happen."

Kim Duff, right, pictured with boyfriend Dano Pendygrasse and dog Josh

"We will probably go to the aquarium to see the fishes."

Keyran Huseynovan, pictured with daughter Leyla, 20 months

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This wedding dress knows what the heart wants

Glowing design. Something borrowed, blue, and something that knows you

LIAM BRITTEN
vancouver@metronews.ca

Growing up in traditional Chinese families, Simon Fraser University (SFU) students Emily Ip and Wynnie Chung had many expectations placed on them — especially when it came to marriage.

Breaking those expectations inspired Wo.Defy, a wedding dress they created for SFU's school for interactive arts and technology. It will debut at Friday's showcase competition at SFU Surrey and will also be exhibited at conferences in Barcelona and Sydney.

Wo.Defy is not a typical dress. It reacts to signs of stress in the wearer. As heart rate and breathing patterns change, it lights up and fabric flowers open and close.

Ip and Chung made the dress to reflect, without words, the emotional journey of women.

"We tried to show emotions and internal conflicts of the wearer," said Ip.

The wedding dress is also a symbol of changing cultures. It is inspired in part by the "self-combing sisters," 20th-century Chinese feminists who asserted their independence with jobs as silk workers and their hairstyle, a bun indicating they were not available for marriage. The dress pays homage to them by incorporating human hair into its design.

Ip and Chung will soon be at an age where tradition expects them to be married, but they don't necessarily want to stick with tradition, and the dress expresses that.

"Because society is full of opportunities, getting married might not be the only option…. This is one of the statements we're trying to bring up," Ip said.

Emily Ip shows off their Wo.Defy wedding dress at SFU Surrey on Thursday.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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Review panel

Northern Gateway experts grilled on enviro impact

A federal review panel is hearing an oil spill in the ocean off B.C.'s Haida Gwaii islands would have many adverse effects on marine plants and mammals.

But a panel of Northern Gateway experts says that based on studies in the aftermath of other large oil spills around the world, those effects will not be permanent or catastrophic.

Lawyers for the Council of the Haida Nation are questioning the expert panel about the impacts a marine spill would have on things like the razor clams they harvest commercially and the seaweed they dry and eat as a snack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HD Mining

Temp-worker program needs fixes: Minister

B.C. Jobs Minister Pat Bell is admitting there are big problems with the temporary foreign-worker program that's behind a controversy over a northern B.C. mine.

HD Mining is facing a legal challenge from two unions after using the program to bring in Chinese miners for a project near Tumbler Ridge, and Bell says it's clear the company didn't do a good job of looking for qualified Canadian miners.

He says people are angry about the situation and the temporary foreign worker program needs to be fixed, but he also says that's up to the federal government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Strategy. Vancouver gives cash to reach 'world's greenest city' goal

Get ready for more urban orchards, school gardens and sustainable seafood.

The Vancouver Foundation and city council awarded $391,500 on Thursday to 17 community-led projects that aim to make the city a greener place.

The fund was created to help Vancouver become the world's "greenest" city.

Fresh Roots Schoolyard Market Gardens landed $35,000 to grow produce in school fields, teach students about urban farming and provide food for cafeterias.

"It's a great example of the creative social enterprises and green jobs we want to see thrive and grow in Vancouver, and we're proud to be supporting a diverse range of groups with the 2012 grants," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in a statement.

Many projects fell in line with Vancouver's new food strategy, including a "sea-to-fork" project, food-scrap recycling and community garden expansions.

Others align with the transportation strategy.

The Build-a-Bicyclist program teaches low-income and newly immigrated adults how to cycle and sells them refurbished bikes, made from recycled scraps for $250, HUB's executive director Erin O'Melinn said.

"It gets them mobile and accessing all of those things in the community that they might have a harder time accessing," she said. "It's a huge savings for people who can take a bike and not have to buy a transit pass."

Also on the biking front, the Public Bike Share Maintenance and Repair Program will get $35,000 — that is, if Vancouver approves a bike share. Council will make a decision later this spring. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Reaching for the goal

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Slithering on towards a peaceful new year

Chinese New Year. Festivities won't be in full swing until Feb. 17

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Being a snake isn't so bad.

Shed off the West's portrayal of the slithering animals as villainous tricksters and wrap yourself around Chinese mythology as Sunday marks the beginning of the Year of the Snake.

"People who are born in the Year of the Snake are very smart and good-looking and charming," said Debra Zhou, spokesperson at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.

Even if you're not a snake, you should be in for a peaceful year.

"After the very eventful year of the dragon, the Year of the Snake is a lot more calm," said Zhou. "It's a time to reassess and rest and for looking into yourself."

But before you relax, take in the festivities of a Vancouver tradition.

Although Sunday is Chinese New Year, festivities won't be in full swing until Feb. 17, when Chinatown invites the city down for its annual parade.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen will be buzzing on the same day, as it hosts a temple fair from 10 a.m to 4 p.m., featuring live music, food vendors and traditional games.

Up to 4,000 people are expected to drop by.

The garden is offering a glimpse at the Year of the Snake already through a 40-foot-long snake (by artist Alastair Heseltine) now living at the garden's pond.

The living creature is made out of green willow and is expected to transform dramatically as the willow sprouts by April.

Dozens of other festivals, events, performances and celebrations across the Lower Mainland will commemorate the Year of the Snake.

No one does it quite like Vancouver, according to Zhou.

"We get a lot of people that tell us Vancouver has more of a Chinese New Year atmosphere than a lot of places in China," she said. "As parts of China westernize, the traditions aren't being kept as much. Here, we're trying to keep that."

So get those red envelopes stuffed and brush up on your Gung Hay Fat Choi.

The Royal Canadian Mint is celebrating Chinese New Year with commemorative Year of the Snake coins available at its downtown Vancouver boutique.
CONTRIBUTED

List of events

Check it out

- Year of the Snake collector coins at the Royal Canadian Mint Boutique: Feb. 8 and 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Feb. 11 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Granville Island's Public Market procession: Feb. 10, 10:30 a.m. to noon.
- HSBC 2013 Chinese Lunar New Year Gala at Bell Performing Arts Centre: Feb. 11, beginning with a dinner at 4:30 p.m. and show 7-9 p.m.
- CIBC Lunar Fest at Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza: Feb. 15-17, various times throughout the day.
- Post-Parade lion dances in Chinatown: Feb. 17, 2-4 p.m.
- Year of the Snake Celebration at International Village: Feb. 15-17, various times throughout the day.

LIAM BRITTEN/METRO

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Offer(s) available on select new 2013 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by February 28, 2013. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. All offers are subject to change without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to $1,650, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies) and $100 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes, variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other dealer charges may be required at the time of purchase. Other lease and financing options also available. **0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. Representative financing example based on 2013 Rio5 LX + AT (RIO75B) with a selling price of $18,572, financed at 0% APR for 36 months. 78 bi-weekly payments equal $225 per payment with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. *3 Payments On Us offer is available on approved credit to eligible retail customers who finance or lease any new 2013 Sorento from a participating dealer between February 1–28, 2013. Eligible lease and purchase finance customers will receive a cheque in the amount of three payments (excluding taxes) to a maximum of $950 per month. Lease and finance purchases are subject to approved credit. Customers will be given a choice between up to $1,650 reductions from the selling/leasing price after taxes or dealer can issue a cheque to the customer. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. Offer ends February 28, 2013. Offer cannot be combined with "Don't Pay For 90 Days" promotion. ***Don't Pay For 90 Days" offer (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing on all new 2012/2013 models. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ² Cash purchase price for 2013 Optima LX MT (OPS41D) is $19,572 and includes a cash savings of $4,000 (which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers). Retailer may sell for less. ³$4,000 cash savings on the cash purchase of an eligible new 2013 Optima LX MT (OPS41D) from a participating dealer between February 1–28, 2013, is deducted from the selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Some conditions apply. The 2013 Kia Optima is the 17th annual winner of the KOTY as presented by Road & Travel Magazine®. ⁴Bi-weekly finance payment O.A.C for new 2013 Sorento LX AT FWD (SR75B3)/2013 Rio4 LX MT (RIO54D) based on a selling price of $28,662/$15,372 is $156/$89 with an APR of 1.49% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period with a $0 down payment or equivalent trade. Estimated remaining principal balance of $8,009/$4,557 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ⁵ Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2013 Sorento 3.5L SX AWD 7-Seater (SR75D3)/2013 Optima SX Turbo AT (OP748D)/ 2013 Rio4 SX with Navigation AT (RIO49D) is $43,045/$35,550/$23,250 and includes delivery and destination fees of $1,650/$1,455/$1,455 and A/C charge ($100, where applicable). License, insurance, applicable taxes, other fees and certain levies (including tire levies), variable dealer administration fees (up to $699) and registration fees are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Available at participating dealers. See dealer for full details. **Highway/City fuel consumption is based on the 2013 Sorento 2.4L GDI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Optima 2.4L MPI 4-cyl (A/T)/2013 Rio4 1.6L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on Transport Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada's *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. ³The Bluetooth® wordmark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.

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IHIT. Police investigate suspected homicide in Abbotsford home

The integrated homicide investigation team has taken over a suspected murder case after a woman's body was found in an Abbotsford home on Wednesday.

Police were called to a home in the 34800 block of Cassiar Court at about 7:30 p.m. and found a 40-year-old woman dead inside.

A 40-year-old man at the home was taken into custody.

"They were in a relationship," said Cpl. Adam MacIntosh of IHIT. "The extent of the relationship, who lived there, who didn't live there, is information at this time we're not sharing. But they did have a common association to that location."

MacIntosh said concerned family members called Abbotsford police to check on the victim's well-being.

"It's very unfortunate that someone has died. This relative's concerns were clearly valid," he said.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Greeks gang

Gang leader gets life in prison

The ringleader of a B.C. gang known as the Greeks has been sentenced to life in prison with no parole for at least 25 years.

Peter Manolakos, 44, was convicted in December of first-degree murder in the 2008 shooting of Ronald Thom and manslaughter in the death of David Marnuik in 2004.

Both were drug-related killings and also led to convictions of several other members of the Greeks, based in Vernon.

First-degree murder carries an automatic sentence of life with no parole for 25 years.

Manolakos was also sentenced to 15 years for the manslaughter, though he's receiving more than 13 years of credit for pre-trial custody on that charge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Liberal candidate facing tax charges

Former MP. Sukh Dhaliwal insists his company and income-tax claims are up to date

The political future of a former member of Parliament who was expected to run for the B.C. Liberals in the May election remains unclear as he winds his way through the legal system facing federal tax charges.

Sukhminder Dhaliwal, known as "Sukh," is facing six counts in Surrey provincial court of failing to comply with the Income Tax Act and is scheduled to make his next appearance on Feb. 21.

Dhaliwal is the party's candidate in the riding of Surrey-Panorama and will replace MLA Stephanie Cadieux, who is the minister of children and family development but will seek re-election nearby.

The charges took many of his colleagues and even political adversaries by surprise.

Liberal party officials and Dhaliwal did not respond to questions about what the charges mean for the candidate in the south Surrey riding.

"It's a serious matter, it is before the court and it's something that he'll have to deal with, obviously," said Bruce Ralston, an NDP MLA for Surrey-Whalley and the party's finance critic.

"But whether or not he should resign is something that his party is going to have to decide. If he doesn't resign, or if he feels he can continue, then ultimately it's something that the voters will have to pass judgment on."

Finance Minister Mike de Jong said while he has heard the reports, he doesn't know any details. "It's not a flattering report, as I understand it, or a positive situation, but I don't know any more than that," he said.

Earlier in the day, Dhaliwal told a local radio station that he made a mistake in trusting other people to run a company of which he and his wife are listed as the sole directors, but he said his taxes on his own company and his personal taxes are up to date.

He said he is working to resolve the situation.

"The only time that I heard about these charges was after I became the candidate, so the party knows about it now," he told CKNW.

Dhaliwal ran unsuccessfully for the federal Liberals in the riding of Newton-North Delta in 2004, but returned two years later, winning a seat in Parliament for two terms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former federal Liberal MP Sukh Dhaliwal's political future is up in the air while he fights federal tax charges. FACEBOOK.COM

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Victoria

Horrifying case of pocket-dialling

When a woman in Victoria got a call from her daughter's cellphone and heard terrified screams, she immediately dialled 911. It turned out the daughter was at a horror movie and had inadvertently called her mother. Nevertheless, police say they were forced to check on the daughter to make sure she was OK.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Close call?

Massive asteroid about to soar past Earth

An asteroid measuring 150 feet will zip past Earth next week. The megarock will pass within 27,400 kilometres of the planet — the closest-known approach ever for an object of this size. But NASA scientists said Thursday there's no reason to worry. They insist there is absolutely no chance of a collision next Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brazeau believed to be in custody

Domestic violence?

Controversial, outspoken senator kicked out of Tory caucus amid reports he was arrested

Sen. Patrick Brazeau
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Conservative Sen. Patrick Brazeau was turfed from his party's caucus and believed to be behind bars Thursday after a 911 call summoned police to his home to investigate a complaint of domestic violence.

Brazeau, long a prominent and polarizing figure within Canada's aboriginal community and beyond, was swiftly removed from the Conservative caucus after police arrived at his home in Gatineau, Que., around 9 a.m.

About three hours later — with Brazeau believed to be in custody, a red police-tape cordon around his house and a cruiser parked in the driveway — a letter was circulated among the caucus that he was no longer a member.

"It's known that in light of the serious events that have been reported today, I have removed Sen. Brazeau from the Conservative caucus," Prime Minister Stephen Harper told the Commons.

"Our understanding is that these are matters of a personal nature rather than Senate business, but they are very serious, and we expect they will be dealt with through the courts."

House Leader Peter Van Loan later confirmed in the Commons that Brazeau's departure was directly linked to reports of a domestic incident.

Brazeau, however, has been a thorn in the Conservative caucus' side for months, most recently over allegations that he was using other people's addresses in order to qualify for a Senate housing allowance and an aboriginal tax exemption.

Police described Brazeau's house as a crime scene, although they refused to confirm it was indeed the senator who was in custody, saying only that a man was arrested at the Gatineau address after a call to 911.

By the dinner hour Thursday, no charges had been formally laid. Police said they would keep the suspect in custody pending a possible court appearance Friday morning.

"There's no charge right now at the moment, but we will continue our investigation," said Gatineau police spokesman Pierre Lanthier.

Lanthier would not comment on the condition of the victim.

Brazeau's office said Thursday that he would remain in the Senate as an independent.

Were he to face charges, Brazeau would be placed on leave from the Senate, and though he could still attend sessions, his access to benefits would be curtailed. He would only be suspended if convicted of an indictable offence.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair said he hoped the Senate scrutinizes those rules if it ever comes time to apply them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A police officer outside the house of Sen. Patrick Brazeau in Gatineau, Que., on Thursday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mr. Baird goes to Washington

Cross-border relations. Canada first on the list to meet with America's new secretary of state

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird
SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Baird will be the first foreign minister to sit down with America's newest secretary of state on Friday when he meets with John Kerry at the U.S. State Department to discuss an array of bilateral and international issues.

The two men will "discuss ways to deepen co-operation in the extensive Canada-U.S. relationship," including efforts to streamline trade and travel at the border, department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Thursday.

Kerry, who was officially sworn in on Wednesday, insisted that he meet first with Canada's foreign minister.

"The secretary felt very strongly that our Canadian neighbour and ally should come first," Nuland said.

In a statement, Baird said he was looking forward to working with Kerry "to find new ways to create jobs, growth and opportunity on both sides of our shared border."

Nuland wouldn't bite on questions about who might become America's next ambassador to Canada. Several names are being bandied about by prognosticators in Canada-U.S. circles, including that of Caroline Kennedy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Day Without Cars in Bogota

Cyclists ride along an empty avenue that leads to the airport in Bogota, Colombia, on Thursday. Residents of Colombia's capital walked, biked or used public transport during a Day Without Cars, on the 13th year that cars have been banned for a day to promote alternative transportation to reduce smog. FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel

Woman beats parking ticket with Facebook

An Israeli woman says she parked her car legally near her Tel Aviv home only to find it gone and replaced with a handicapped parking sign. City hall slapped her with $300 US in fines.

Hila Ben Baruch obtained footage from a security camera showing municipal workers painting the handicapped symbol under her car, then towing the vehicle away. The video, put on Facebook, has gone viral. The municipality has apologized and refunded the fines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria

Soldiers shake their booty

A video posted online purportedly shows Syrian soldiers taking a break from the country's civil war by bopping around to American R&B star Usher's hit song, Yeah! The video appeared to be authentic and the uniforms consistent with those worn by Syrian soldiers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Saska-BOOM!

Province is Canada's economic Kevlar vest

While most of the country is feeling economically crunched, with fewer job opportunities and budgets blanketed in red, Saskatchewan is booming.

It's a boom that could help protect the country against a shaky global economy.

"We have what the world wants right now, not just with respect to natural resources, but also in terms of agriculture," said Premier Brad Wall.

Wall highlights a 7.7 per cent growth in exports — the highest rate of growth in the country between November 2011 and November 2012 — saying the province is blessed to rely on multiple resources rather than just one. Currently, Saskatchewan is a major producer of potash, uranium, oil and natural gas, and is a world leader in pulse crops.

In late 2012 the Conference Board of Canada reported that Saskatchewan is poised to have the fastest-growing economy in 2013 and 2014, which boils down to two things: more money and more jobs.

"It's a great quality of life here," said Wall. "When you take a look at the rest of the country, it's very competitive from a cost-of-living standpoint, and there are jobs here that we can offer and jobs that are available right now."

With growth comes growing pains — which Wall said his government is working on keeping to a minimum by way of major investments in infrastructure and appropriate tax exemptions.

Perhaps most important is that the boom is nowhere near slowing down.

"It's continuing.... That's the first thing other Canadians should know: that this is real what's happening here in Saskatchewan," said Wall.

JANE CAULFIELD/METRO IN SASKATOON

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Sound of Saskatchewan. Get your free Young Benjamins download at metronews.ca

For many Canadians, Saskatchewan is a 'fly-over' province, its sparsely populated countryside and (mostly) But Saskatchewan is maturing — and darn if she isn't filling out nicely. Here's a grain elevator full of reasons

SUDDENLY SEXY SAS

Rural allure

Fresh as a daisy — dukes, that is, and just as cheeky

You know what they say. Country is so hot right now, and they're not just talking about the sunny summers in the Prairies. Daisy dukes and cowboy boots may have made their pop-culture comeback, but they never went out of style in Saskatchewan.

Baby, you can drive my car

Just call 'em sugar daddy

Saskatchewan ain't no scrub. You know the old joke about cash being the ultimate aphrodisiac? Well, Saskatchewan is well on its way to becoming the sugar-daddy province, with its high employment, high levels of business ownership and luxury shopping to match, like Saskatchewan's first Porsche dealership.

Hot as all get out

A future so bright, it needs shades

An international spotlight has been shining down on this province's sizzling talent, like soccer dynamo Kaylyn Kyle, pictured here, who claimed bronze at the 2012 Olympics, and Saskatoon rockers The Sheepdogs. And keep an eye on up-and-coming folk-rockers Young Benjamins. Nothing's sexier than young blood.

She digs football

She's into the game: A fantasy come true

Hey guys, you know how you've always wanted a girlfriend who'd watch a football game? Well Saskatchewan women — and not just Roughriders fans — will also pick up the ball. The province boasts the 2012 champs of the Western Women's Canadian Football League. And these ladies are serious, forgoing the cutesy lingerie.

Baby, it's warm inside

Staying stoked all night long is what they do best

During the harsh Prairie winters there's nothing better than staying inside and keeping each other warm. While the methods of escaping severe winds and cold temperatures vary, it usually involves a fireplace, some sultry tunes and a 12 of Pilsner.

Wheat champ

1911

Rosthern farmer Seager Wheeler wins first of five world wheat championships with his entry of Marquis at the New York Land Show. He soon develops new varieties of barley, wheat and oats.

Hockey broadcast

1923

Saskatchewan's first radio station, CKCK Regina, airs one of the world's first live broadcasts of a pro hockey game: the Regina Capitals vs. the Edmonton Eskimos.

Marketing giant

1924

Co-operative Wheat Producers Limited (a.k.a. Saskatchewan's Wheat Pool) becomes the largest co-operative marketing organization in the world.

Pumped on natural gas

1934

Saskatchewan's first successful natural-gas well, Discovery No. 1, near Lloydminster, inaugurates the era of commercial production in the province that continues to this day.

Uranium rules

1952

The province's first major oil field is discovered and EMRL begins uranium production. The oil pumps for 40 years; uranium production marks the beginning of a 50-year reign as world's largest uranium producer.

Plentiful potash

1962

The potash mine at Esterhazy, which would become the world's largest, starts producing in earnest thanks to the Blairmore Ring, a technology that prevents mine-shaft flooding, which had stalled previous efforts.

flat landscape having long been the butt of jokes. why the province is now the object of hungry eyes

KATCHEWAN

IMAGE OF KYLE WITH PORSCHE: ELECTRIC UMBRELLA / BACKGROUND PRAIRIE IMAGE: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

They've got the nightlife

Brew pubs & bars & nightclubs — oh yeah!

Sure, sure — in Saskatchewan you may think it's all farming and no play, but with brew pubs, bars, nightclubs, concert venues and restaurants cropping up all over the place, they're defying the notion that they don't know how to party.

Growing culture

Great big art throb

Saskatchewan takes its art seriously. Local talent is fiercely supported by the citizens of the province, which has encouraged musicians, performers and visual artists to put down roots. And the Remai Art Gallery of Saskatchewan, slated to begin construction in Saskatoon in March, will feature a collection of original Picassos that is sure to wow and inspire.

Big on all outdoors

Rockin' the rugged wilderness

Do you like a certain lumberjack quality in your significant other? If so, then look no further than the frontiersmen and women of Saskatchewan. Many have been braving the untamed wilderness on boats, skis and snowmobiles since they were no taller than a stalk of wheat. **JEFF MACKEY/METRO IN REGINA**

Five things you didn't know about Saskatchewan

1 Rider pride. Most passionate fans

Riders merch accounts for approximately 70 per cent of all CFL sales. Why wouldn't you want your toothbrush, baby's onesie and golf tees in green and white?

2 Let it shine. Sunniest province

Not only do Saskatchewanians get the most sunrays, the province also has the highest number of hot days (more than 30 C) and one of the clearest skies annually.

3 Time stands still. No DST shift

Saskatchewan stays the same time year-round, the only province to shun daylight savings time. It switches between central and mountain time by simply not "springing ahead" and people like it that way.

4 It ain't so flat. Cypress Hills

Cypress Hills in the southwest part of the province is 4,567 feet above sea level, making it the highest point in Canada between Labrador and the Rocky Mountains.

5 Nautical history. Shipwreck

In 2012, archeologists discovered the wreck of a steamship in the South Saskatchewan River that sunk in Saskatoon in 1908. No one was killed in the century-old accident, which was called the "greatest nautical disaster in Prairie history." **ALYSSA MCDONALD/METRO IN REGINA**

'It' place. Why people love it here

Metro talked to people who have lived in Saskatchewan all their lives, others who have come back and those who are new to the province. Here's what they told us. **MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON**

"Here I can be a bigger fish in a small pond."

Ryan Smith, 32, CEO of Varial Technologies Inc. and co-founder of Ominocity, a music-and-culture blog. Sask. local.

"The quality of life that I have here (is) comparable to or better than ... a lot of other parts of Canada."

Bronwyn Stoddard, 27, copy writer at the Marketing Den. Sask. local.

"I figured opportunity seems to be everywhere but here, but things really changed here."

Paul Chavady, 25, real estate agent. Came to Sask. in 2001 from India, moved to Calgary in 2006, returned to Sask. in 2007.

" I knew things had changed.... I felt it was the right time for me to come back."

Blair Braitenbach, 33, communications co-ordinator, FASD Support Network of Saskatchewan Inc. Sask. local, left for Calgary in 2003, returned in 2012.

"I know there's going to be no issues finding a job here in my field."

Millie Lemieux, 27, grad student at the University of Saskatchewan in animal behaviour. Grew up in the Ottawa Valley, moved to Sask. in 2011.

"I noticed right away ... just how friendly and open people were, and accepting."

Laurence Nixon, 25, account manager at zu web strategy, design and development agency. Recruited by U of S Huskies football program in 2005, grew up in Richmond, B.C.

Indie campus

1974

The University of Regina is created as the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan becomes a separate institution.

1st debit card

1985

The first debit card in North America is tested at a Swift Current Pioneer Co-op. In 1981, the same credit union in Regina that brought Canada the ATM was busy working on the debit-card concept.

One-century young

2005

The province celebrates its 100th birthday.

Unemployment falls

2009

While Canada was in the midst of a recession, Saskatchewan was the only province to record a decline in unemployment.

Population rises

2012

As the economy grows, so does the population. The province's population reaches an all-time record of 1,086,564. Saskatchewan also sees the highest employment rate in July with 542,600 employed.

A-1 economy

2013

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Saskatchewan will have the top-ranked economy among the provinces, with a growth rate of 3.4 per cent. **JONATHAN RUSSELL AND ALI ZAFAR/METRO IN TORONTO**

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Carney rules out career in politics

Central banking. At U.K. confirmation hearing, incoming BoE governor puts rumours to rest

Mark Carney, the current head of the Bank of Canada, will become governor of the Bank of England on July 1.
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Mark Carney wanted to make one thing perfectly clear Thursday before submitting to his unofficial, and ultimately successful, job interview for governor of the Bank of England — "I do not have political ambitions."

The proof, Carney said, is in his choice of taking on the extremely challenging post as England's top banker.

The statement before his hearing in London was perhaps the most categorical disavowal of any political interest for now, or when he is expected to return to Canada in five years.

The issue arose after it was revealed in December that Carney had been courted for — and in some eyes appeared somewhat interested in — the Liberal leadership, and had vacationed at the Liberal finance critic's cottage during the summer. The speculation in Canada is that Carney would be ready to jump into the political ring after returning from England in 2018.

"I'm surprised it has been suggested that taking one of the most challenging jobs in central banking in another country would be politically advantageous in my home country," he told the Treasury Select committee. "If I had political ambitions, I would have pursued them in Canada and so I think this is revealed preference. I do not have political ambitions."

Carney, the current governor of the Bank of Canada, will take charge of the storied, 319-year-old Bank of England on July 1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Art market weathers Europe's economic storm

This 1932 painting by Pablo Picasso entitled Woman Sitting Near a Window fetched almost $45 million at auction Tuesday at Sotheby's in London. Sales of impressionist, modern and surrealist art this week at Sotheby's and rival Christie's saw pre-sale estimates shattered, proving the high-end art market is weathering Europe's economic storm. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.20¢ (-0.25¢)

TSX 12,755.92 (-5.68)

OIL $95.83 US (-79¢)

GOLD $1,671.30 US (-$7.50)

Natural gas: $3.29 US (-13¢)
Dow Jones: 13,944.05 (-42.47)

Horseburger scandal. Polish official refutes Irish claims

Investigations in Poland have found no evidence backing Irish claims that Poland was the source of horsemeat that ended up in Irish and British burgers, a top Polish veterinarian said on Thursday.

Jaroslaw Naze, deputy head of Poland's General Veterinary Inspectorate, said Ireland needed to hand over more documentary evidence, including labels on the suspected meat supplies, so that Polish officials can complete their own investigation. "I need the details from Ireland," he said.

Tensions have emerged in recent days between the two countries, both major meat producers whose industries could be damaged by the scandal. Irish government officials and an Irish meat company have blamed the contamination of beef patties with horsemeat on meat imported from Poland. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

There "are no signs that the horsemeat was in Polish beef. My investigation shows that the beef was beef."

Jaroslaw Naze, deputy head of Poland's General Veterinary Inspectorate

Cineplex. NHL lockout credited with upping profit

A slate of Hollywood hits featuring superheroes and a secret agent helped exhibitor Cineplex Inc. deliver the best full-year results in its history, and an almost 200-per-cent increase in fourth-quarter profit.

Chief executive Ellis Jacob said Thursday that the NHL hockey lockout left Canadians with fewer options for Saturday night entertainment. He thinks that was at least part of the reason Cineplex saw quarterly attendance jump 23 per cent.

"I keep saying (it) helped us, but it's hard to quantify," Jacob said in an interview after the company reported its results. "All I can tell you is personally when I asked people, 'What are you doing?' everybody on a Saturday night seemed to be going to a movie. When we checked the numbers it was hard to tell."

A combination of high-adrenaline action movies like James Bond entry Skyfall and broadly appealing adventures like The Hobbit and the finale of the Twilight series gave hockey fans plenty of alternatives.

"The movies were appealing to a much wider demographic," Jacob added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THIS MIGHT SOUND CHEESY ...

THE LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

It's officially time for the unofficial list of everything noteworthy or maybe just crazy. If it's worth talking about, it's here. If it's not listed, welp, then don't even think about bringing it up around the watercooler.

1 **Bilieb it.** Justin Bieber, often the butt of The Metro List, is elevated to No. 1 in honour of being the youngest artist to have five No. 1 albums on the Billboard Top 200. He turns 19 on March 1. Somewhere out there, Mozart's feeling old.

2 **A gravy state of affairs.** A fire destroys the St. Albert cheese factory, setting off a poutine panic in the nation's capital, as the supply of curds is cut off. Other cheese factories have offered to leap into the breach and produce emergency curds. Meanwhile, that sigh of relief is coming from Ottawa-area arteries.

3 **Speaking of clogged arteries.** Sen. Mike Duffy is in big trouble for claiming the expense allowance that goes with representing the good people of Prince Edward Island and maintaining a residence on The Gentle Island. The wags are calling him "Senator Come-From-Away," and the Opposition demands to know the last time he actually set foot in Cavendish, where he allegedly lives. Mike, who spent many years demanding answers as a national political correspondent, is uncharacteristically silent.

4 **Ottawa Babylon.** What's with the Senate? Usually little more than a dormitory for burnt-out bagmen, the Senate's on fire with scandal. Now Canada's youngest senator, Patrick Brazeau, has been linked to an alleged domestic disturbance and kicked out of the Tory caucus. When unelected political hacks behave badly, I say off with their expense accounts!

5 **Speaking of Prince Edward Island.** CreateSpace (owned by Amazon) has reinvented Anne of Green Gables as a blond, complete with heaving bosom and come-hither look. Huh? Anne fans are not amused. Where are the carroty pigtails and freckles? And who, exactly, is the world's largest bookseller trying to reach by sexing up the patron saint of P.E.I.? Definitely not your mother's Anne. Maybe your kid brother's?

6 **My kingdom for a hearse.** The bones of King Richard III, epic Shakespearean villain, are dug up in a parking lot in Leicester, England. His final resting place will likely be a tomb in the more royally suitable Leicester Cathedral. And along with the up-grave, he's getting an image makeover. Turns out the last Plantagenet wasn't a nasty, scheming hunchback after all, but the victim of 16th-century Tudor attack ads.

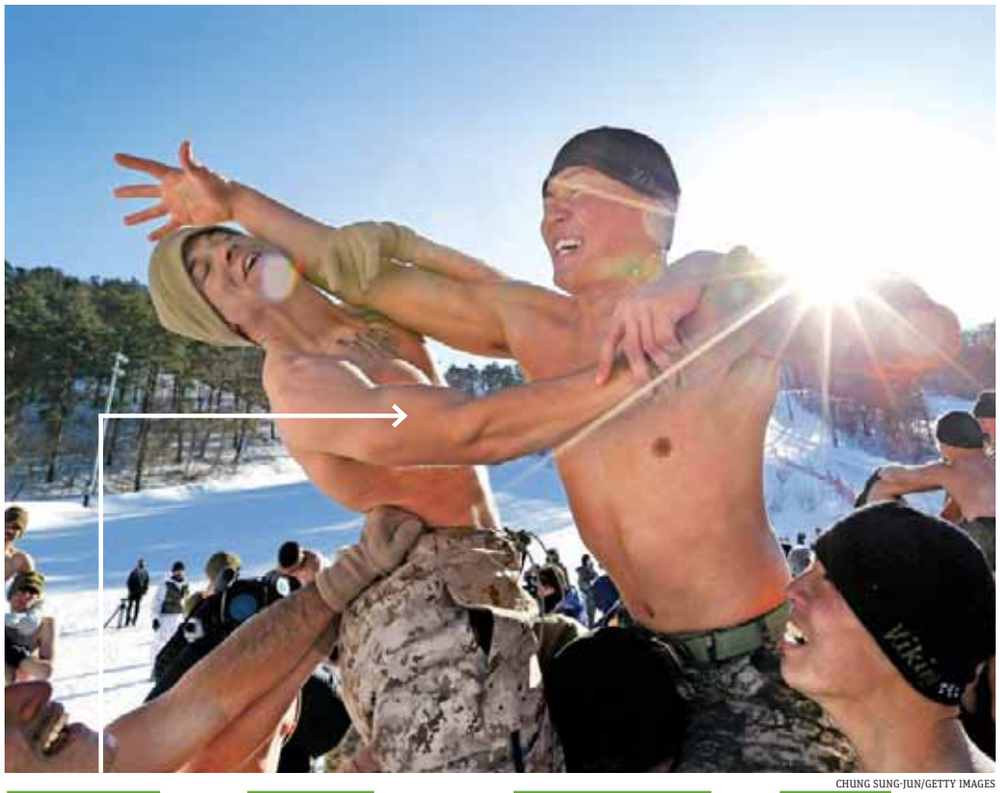
7 **BlackBerries ripe for picking.** RIM changes its name to BlackBerry and launches the sleek new Z10 phone in Canada and the U.K., but it won't be on sale in the U.S. until mid-March (where they'll call it the Zee10). Meanwhile, BlackBerry has hired songbird Alicia Keys to spread the musical word across America. Now, if only they can get her to stop tweeting from her iPhone.

8 **Year of the Snake.** If you've already booted your new year's resolutions, no problem. Lunar New Year, Feb. 10, gives you a chance to reboot. Let's just hope 2013 doesn't turn out like 1929, a previous snake-bit year!

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

Justin Bieber flashes his abs on Late Night With Jimmy Fallon on Tuesday.
HEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES

The skin-ny on military training



CHUNG SUNG-JUN/GETTY IMAGES

Military training

Going Spartan for S. Korean snow

Around 400 marines from South Korea and the United States have shed their shirts in sub-zero temperatures as part of a training exercise near the ski resort town of Pyeongchang, some 180 kilometres east of Seoul.

The bare-chested soldiers walked through icy water and performed pushups on the snow to test their limits in extreme conditions. METRO

Viral military

Air force parodies Les Misérables

Despite a penchant for serious training, South Korea's armed forces show they can have fun, too.

The country's air force has posted a Les Misérables parody on YouTube, complete with snow-shovelling airmen, a lovesick military service conscript and a vengeful superior officer.

The clip, entitled Les Militaribles, has amassed around a million views in just a few days. METRO

Army man's viewpoint

"Through this training session, Marine Corps of South Korea and the U.S. will learn how to adapt to various combat environments, including extreme cold and snow."

Lt.-Col. Lee Keun-soo to the Yonhap News Agency. It is the first time that the marine corps of the two allied nations have held such joint winter drills, officials said.

In numbers

18

days — the length of the marines' gruelling extreme training (until Feb. 22). Temperatures can dip below -20 C.

Metropolitan Panel

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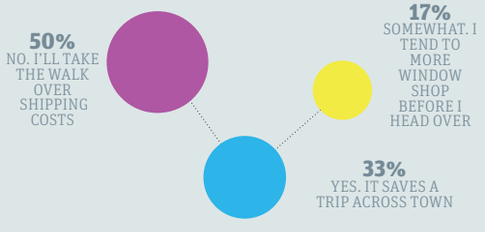
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Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy are hardly rational humans in Identity Thief. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

'Comedy' a time thief

Identity Thief. Even Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy can't save this plastic farce of a plot that hinges on stolen credit cards

Richard: Mark, there is suspension of disbelief. Then there's stretching the limits of believability. And then there is Identity Thief. I don't demand that my movies make perfect sense. Far from it. If I am enjoying the story I'm willing to overlook some leaps in logic. But the plot twists here simply don't work. For one thing, I guess simply cancelling the stolen credit cards lacks comedic possibilities, but it would have been the right thing to do and it would have spared us this mostly unfunny "comedy."

Mark: Richard, this is a very, very broad comedy, and I don't just mean Melissa McCarthy's pants. Frankly, I found it hard to sit through what felt like a bad remake of Trains, Planes and Automobiles with John Candy in drag and assassins just behind. But I don't know which I found more dispiriting — the actors trying to wring a few drops of laughter from the nonsensical yet predictable script or the sentimental relationship between the main characters, which would NEVER, EVER happen if ANY detail of the film were real.

RC: The sickly sentimentality of the last half of the movie — he learns confidence, she gains a conscience — tries to humanize two characters who don't behave like humans. It would be like the Three Stooges unloading onscreen about childhood trauma. You can't make us feel for these characters no mater how often you show McCarthy crying, because there isn't an ounce of authenticity anywhere in the film.

MB: Correct! But what you might feel, as I did, is what a fine actor McCarthy is, even with this bogus material, and how badly you want her to be paired with another script of Bridesmaids quality. As far as Bateman goes, he's Paul Rudd lite, but even Rudd would not have made a difference here. I knew from the early scene with Jon Favreau that there was nothing grounding this flick.

RC: McCarthy's timing is perfect. Over dinner when she's asked, "Do you know what a sociopath is?" She replies, "Do they like ribs?" Not a great gag but her timing sells it. Imagine what she might have done with actual jokes.

MB: Usually in a movie like this one, there's one supporting actor who's rises above the rest of the movie. In this one, nobody. Zilch. Poor Amanda Peet, forced, probably at gunpoint, to act with only her pert hairdo.

Synopsis

After struggling midlevel executive Sandy Patterson (Jason Bateman) foolishly divulges his credit card information over the phone to Diana (Melissa McCarthy), she steals his identity and quickly racks up five-digit debt on his cards. When the cops in his home state of Colorado inform him they can't do anything unless she comes to Denver, he goes to Florida, finds her and vows to drive her back, across the country, to justice.

Star ratings:

- Richard: ●●○○○
- Mark: ●●○○○

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DOES THE BC LIBERAL GOVERNMENT VALUE OUR COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES?

Judging by the WorkBC website, not really.*

The profile for "Community and Social Service Workers" on the government's website calls for post-secondary education as a minimum requirement, but also describes:

- **Salary** as *Below average*
- **Job stability** as *Below average*
- **Future prospects** as *Limited*

It's true. Community social services workers – mostly women – are among the lowest paid in the public sector. Many are forced to work two or more jobs to make ends meet.

On Family Day it's worth asking: why doesn't this government value the critical work performed every day by the 15,000 workers and more than 250 agencies who support vulnerable families every day?

Key Career Choice Factors

Minimum education required
College or university program

Salary
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Below Average

Job Stability
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Below Average

Future Prospects
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Documentary

West of Memphis

Director. Amy Berg

Stars. Jason Baldwin, Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley

The bulk of the movie is comprised of the 17-year fight to prove the innocence of the West Memphis Three, three teens convicted on dubious evidence in 1994 of the murder of three young boys. But compelling though the story may be, the Alford Plea that earned them release from prison on the proviso they plead guilty feels like justice, once again, was not served. Real life doesn't always work out the way we want and neither do documentaries. As a result, West of Memphis is interesting, but ultimately unsatisfying. **RICHARD CROUSE**

Drama

Side Effects

Director. Steven Soderbergh

Stars. Rooney Mara, Channing Tatum, Jude Law

If this is in fact to be Steven Soderbergh's final film as a director released in theatres, he's going out on a pretty good note. There are better entries in his filmography — like Traffic or last year's Magic Mike or even Ocean's 11 — but the eclectic director can still count this one as a high point. The twisty, intrigue-filled plot — which we can't go into too much detail about because spoilers abound — has an engaging neo-Hitchcock vibe, but Soderbergh and screenwriter Scott Z. Burns employ one twist too many, making things feel a bit silly at times and keeping the film from being truly spectacular. **NED EHRBAR**

Actors leave their Safe Haven

Safe Haven, starring Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel, opens in theatres next Friday. HANDOUT

Improving on improv. Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel worked their thespian chops under the direction of Lasse Hallström

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

In Safe Haven, a new romantic thriller from director Lasse Hallström and writer Nicholas Sparks, Julianne Hough plays a woman on the run from her past, a role she says was "liberating."

"Everything that I've done prior to this has obviously been performance based," says the star of Footloose and Rock of Ages, "but also very, 'Here is your mark, stand on it. These are your exact lines and these are the songs you are singing.'

"This was very freeing for me. I really felt like they hired me to act. I felt like I grew so much in this because it was scary.

"It is scary to do something that you've never done before. I always say that if I'm afraid, I should probably do it. But you're on your tippy-toes because you don't know what he's going to say next because a lot of it was improvised."

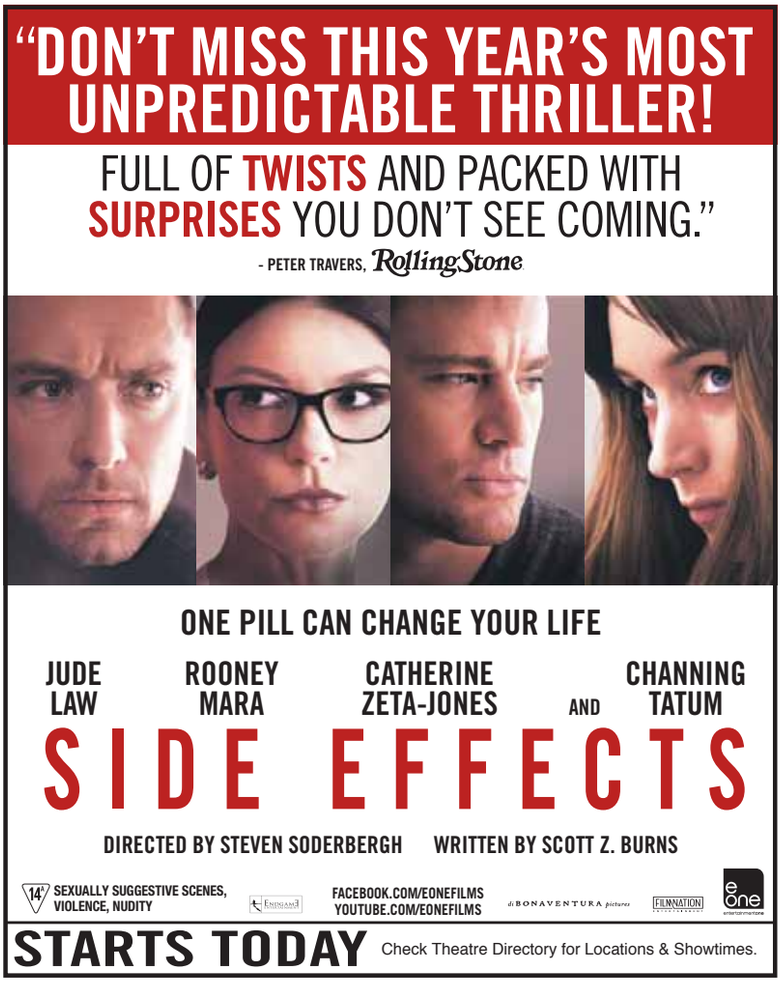
The "he" she refers to is Josh Duhamel, who takes a break from playing Lennox in the Tranformers movies to take on the role of Hough's love interest.

"When I first heard of Lasse's style of shooting, I knew that he liked to be free," he says.

"It's liberating but it also forces you to do much more work because if you change it up you still have to know what each scene is about in order to make the whole movie work. You can't just improv the whole thing because then one scene won't bleed into the next. They started working two weeks before I did and Julianne was like, 'It's great, we improv all day.' What do you mean we improv all day?!"

"The first scene I did with (co-star) Dave Lyons they had us sitting across the table from each other talking," Hough chimes in.

"They said, 'Just talk about anything.' We literally talked about upside down pineapple cake and nothing made sense, and we were like, 'What are we doing?'"



A good day for McClane in Moscow?

Die Hard. Bruce Willis reprises his role as a comedic cop — this time blasting his way around Eastern Europe

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Bruce Willis is the first to admit that, five movies in, the titles of the Die Hard franchise are getting a bit ridiculous. "We only do another Die Hard when they have another really complicated title that no one quite understands," Willis jokes. "We had just gotten to where we understand (2007's) Live Free or Die Hard, and then now we have A Good Day to Die Hard, which, I have to be honest with you, I'm a little baffled still by that one."

Twenty-five years after the first Die Hard turned Willis from a funny TV guy into a bona fide action star, he's back in A Good Day to Die Hard as Det. John McClane, the wise-cracking New York cop who always manages to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. This go round, that wrong place is Moscow, where he's tracking down his estranged son (Jai Courtney).

"Moscow was really built for a couple of fish out of water like us. I can't imagine a bigger ocean of non-communication than Eastern Europe and Russia," Willis says. "I don't speak any other languages really. We got a couple jokes out of that. It just opens it up. I like seeing myself not be able to figure things out — not being able to figure out how the car works, not being able to figure out what someone is saying to me. I can hardly understand English."

The fourth film found McLane reconciling with his daughter (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), who has a small part here. With John Jr. featuring in this film, does that mean a sixth might reunite McClane and his wife, Holly, played by Bonnie Bedelia?

"I always think of Bonnie Bedelia and having her coming back," Willis says. "Those things are unfortunately out of my hands. It has to do with the story."

Bedelia, for her part, has been keeping busy on NBC's Parenthood.

Willis is already the fourth member of the Expendables team to hit theatres with a headlining film in 2013, following Arnold Schwarzenegger (The Last Stand), Jason Statham (Parker) and Sylvester Stallone (Bullet to the Head). But Willis isn't concerned with how his latest outing will stack up against his colleagues'. "I don't compete with anyone. I compete with myself," he says.

"I wish everyone well. I'm still a big film fan. I still go to see other action films and I go to see comedies and all kinds of weird things. There is no competition."

The origins of yippee-ki-yay

It turns out possibly the most famous line of dialogue in Bruce Willis' career, "yippee-ki-yay, motherf—er," wasn't even in the original Die Hard script. "It was an ad-lib," Bruce Willis admits. "Alan Rickman was such a good bad guy, he was constantly picking on me. He said something to me and I just happen to let that line slip out and it just became part of the fabric of the film. It's just amazing to me that the line has lasted this long. Kids say it to me on the street. Grandmothers. It's a little awkward. But I'm happy that they say it."

A Good Day to Die Hard, which opens next Thursday. HANDOUT

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Jeremy Hotz

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OMNIMAX Theatre Science World 1455 Quebec St., 604-443-7443

Hubble (STC) A.M. Fri 11
Mysteries of Egypt (G) A.M. Wed 11
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Fri-Thu 1-3 To the Arctic (G) Fri 12-2 Sat-Sun 12-2-4 Mon-Thu 12-2

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Wed 10 Thu 7-9:15
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Tue 7-9:30 Wed 7
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Sat-Mon 2-4:15
Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469
Amour (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-6:40-9:15
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1-4:10-6:50-9:25 Wed 1-4:10-9:25 Thu 1-4:10-6:50-9:25
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:20-9:45
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7-9:35
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:10-10:20

Pacific Cinémathèque 1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456 cinematheque.bc.ca

8 1/2 (STC) Fri 8:20 Sat 6:30
Bicycle Thieves (STC) Fri 6:30 Sat 4:30-9:05
Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (STC) Sun-Thu
Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 4-7-9:20 Sat-Mon 1:30-4-7-9:20 Tue-Thu 4-7-9:20

Rio on Broadway 1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film riotheatre.ca

16th Annual Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival (STC) Sat 3-7:30 Mon 3-7:30 Tue-Wed 7:30
Moulin Rouge (PG) Fri 11
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun Thu
The Room (STC) Fri 9

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver 900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Die Hard Marathon (STC) No Passes Wed 12:10
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Tue 11:40-3:20-7-10:40 Wed 6:45-10:10 Thu 2:45-6:30-10:10
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri 11:45-2:25-5-7:40-10:20 Sat 2:25-5-7:40-10:20 Sun 11:45-2:25-5-7:40-10:20 Mon 11:45-2:25-10:20 Tue 11:45-2:25-5-7:40-10:20
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 1:20-4-7:30-10:05 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:05-5:30-8-10:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:45 Sat 11-1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:45 Sun 1-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:45 Mon-Tue 1:30-3:50-6:10-8:30-10:45 Wed 12:50-3-5:20-7:40-10:30 Thu 12:50-3-5:20-7:50-10:15
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 11:30-3-6:45-10:30 Sun 3-6:45-10:30 Mon-Tue 11:30-3-6:45-10:30 Wed 2:50-6:35-10:20
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri 1:50-4:30-7:20-10 No Passes Sat 11:15-1:50-4:30-7:20-10 No Passes Sun-Tue 1:50-4:30-7:20-10 No Passes Wed 1:20-4:10-7-10-10:25 No Passes Thu 1:50-2:20-4:30-5-7:20-7:40-10-10:25 No Passes Fri-Tue 11:50-2:25-5:05-7:50-10:35 No Passes Wed 1:50-4:30-7:20
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10 Wed 1:15-4:15-10:10 Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10
Love Story (18A) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Encore (STC) Sat 9:55 Mon 6:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 12:25-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:45 Sat 10:45-12-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:45 Sun-Tue 12:25-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:45 Wed 2-4:25-7:45-10:15 Thu 2-4:25-7:25-10:30
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-3:40-7:10-10:40 Wed 7:05 Thu 3:15-6:45-10:20

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film

Jeni LeGon: Living in a Great Big Way (STC) Mon 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun Tue-Wed
The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2013: Animated (STC) Fri 6:30
The Oscar Nominated Short Films 2013: Live Action (STC) Sat 6:30
Salty Dog Blues (STC) Thu 7

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre 845 Avison Way, 604-659-3752 vanaqua.org

The Great Salmon Run 4D Experience (STC) Fri 11:15-12:30-1:45-3-4:15 Sat-Sun 11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15 Mon-Thu 11:15-12:30-1:45-3-4:15

North Shore

Esplanade 6 200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation, No Passes Wed 10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation, No Passes Thu 6:40-9:20
Django Unchained (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Fri-Thu 7:45
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (18A) Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 9:45 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Mon 3:30-9:45 Digital Presentation, Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 9:45
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Mon 12:25-7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue-Wed 7:10
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Fri 7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Sat-Mon 12-7:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Tue-Thu 7:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Mon 3:45
The Impossible (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Fri-Wed 6:40-9:20
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Mon 12:15-4
Safe Haven (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Thu 7:10-9:45
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Fri 6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Sat-Mon 12:25-3:20-6:50-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Tue-Thu 6:50-9:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Fri 7-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Sat-Mon 12:55-4:10-7-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Tue-Thu 7-9:40
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation Sat-Mon 12:45-3:20

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 7:40-10:10
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:15 No Passes Sat 11:30-2:05-4:45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Sun-Mon 2:05-4:45-7:30-10:15 No Passes Tue-Thu 7:20-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 7-9:45 Sat-Mon 12:30-4:05-7-9:45 Tue 7-9:45 Wed 7 Thu 7-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Les Misérables (PG) Fri 8:30 Sat 10:15-1:30-5-8:30 Sun-Mon 1:30-5-8:30 Tue-Thu 7:40
Quartet (PG) Fri 7:15-9:50 Sat-Mon 2:10-4:30-7:15-9:50 Tue-Wed 7:05-9:40 Thu 7:05-9:30
Side Effects (14A) Fri 7:40-10:20 Sat 11:50-2:25-5-7:40-10:20 Sun-Mon 2:25-5-7:40-10:20 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 6:50-10:10 Sat 12:10-3:30-6:50-10:10 Sun-Mon 1-4:20-8 Tue-Wed 8

Richmond

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Beautiful Creatures (PG) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:55
The Borrowers (G) Sat 11
Bullet to the Head (14A) Fri 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Sat 10:35-1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Sun-Mon 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:45 Tue-Wed 1:40-4:05-7:10-9:55 Thu 12:45-3:15-5:55-8:15-10:40
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 3:10-6:45-10:25 Mon 3:10-6:45-10:10 Tue-Thu 2:45-6:15-9:40
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:15-6:15-9 Sun 3:15-6:15-9 Mon-Tue 12:30-3:15-6:15-9 Wed 12:30-3:15-6:15
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 2:15-4:45-7:15-9:50
A Good Day to Die Hard: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri 1:20-3:40-6-8:25-10:45 Sat 11-1:20-3:40-6-8:25-10:45 Sun-Mon 1:20-3:40-6-8:25-10:45 Tue-Wed 1:20-3:40-6-8:25-10:40 Thu 1:10-3:40-6-8:20-10:45
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Mon 11:25 Tue-Wed 1:40 Thu 2
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 3-6:40-10:20 Mon 3-6:35-10:05 Tue-Wed 5:30-9:25 Thu 5:45-9:15
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri 1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50 No Passes Sat 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50 No Passes Tue-Wed 1:50-4:30-7:15-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:50-3:45-5:30-6:30-8:10-9:30-10:45 No Passes Fri-Tue 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:35 No Passes Wed 8:15-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1 No Passes Wed 12-2:35-5:15
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1:20-4:25-7:15-10:15 Sat 10:10-1:20-4:25-7:15-10:15 Sun-Mon 1:20-4:25-7:15-10:15 Tue-Wed 1:10-4:25-7:10-10:15 Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:10
Lincoln (PG) Fri 12:30-3:45-7:10-10:30 Sat 3:45-7:10-10:30 Sun 12:30-3:45-7:10-10:30 Mon 12:30-3:45-7:10-10:25 Tue 1:25-5:45-9:30 Wed 1:25-5
Love Story (18A) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Mon 12-3:25-6:35-10:05 Tue-Wed 2:15-6-9:45 Thu 1:55-6:10-9:50
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri 12:50 Sat 10:20-12:50 Sun-Mon 12:50 Tue-Thu 12:25
Parker (14A) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:25-7:45-10:40 Tue-Wed 1:40-4:40-7:45-10:30 Thu 1:45-4:25-7:35-10:35
Quartet (PG) Fri 12:35-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Sat 10-12:35-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Sun-Mon 12:35-3-5:25-7:50-10:15 Tue 1:45-4:15-6:50-9:15 Wed 1:45-4:15-7-9:30 Thu 1:40-4:20-7:25-10:05
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri 1:25 Sat 11:10-1:25 Sun-Mon 1:25 Tue-Wed 1:10
Safe Haven (PG) Thu 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:30
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Mon 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:50 Tue 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Wed 12-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:35 Thu 4-6:45-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Sat 10:30-1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Sun-Mon 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Tue-Wed 1:20-4:10-7-10:25 Thu 1:35-4:35-7:30-10:35
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Mon 3:45-6:55-10:10 Tue 3:45-6:50-10 Wed 3:45-10
Stand Up Guys (14A) Fri-Mon 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:20 Tue-Wed 1:35-4:15-7:50-10:45 Thu 1:05-3:50-7:20-10:20
Top Gun: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Wed 12-2:30-5:05-7:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Tue-Wed 12:40-3-5:25-8:10-10:35 Thu 12:10-2:35-5-7:30-10
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:40-7:10-10:35 Mon 12:10-3:40-7-10:20 Tue 1:30-5:55-9:40 Wed 1:30-9:40 Thu 1:55-6:05-9:45

Burnaby

Dolphin Cinemas 4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Thu 5-7:15-9:30
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 4:45-7-9:20 Sat-Mon 2-4:45-7-9:20 Tue-Thu 4:45-7-9:20
Parental Guidance (G) No Passes Fri 4:30-6:45-9 No Passes Sat-Mon 1:45-4:30-6:45-9 No Passes Tue-Wed 4:30-6:45-9

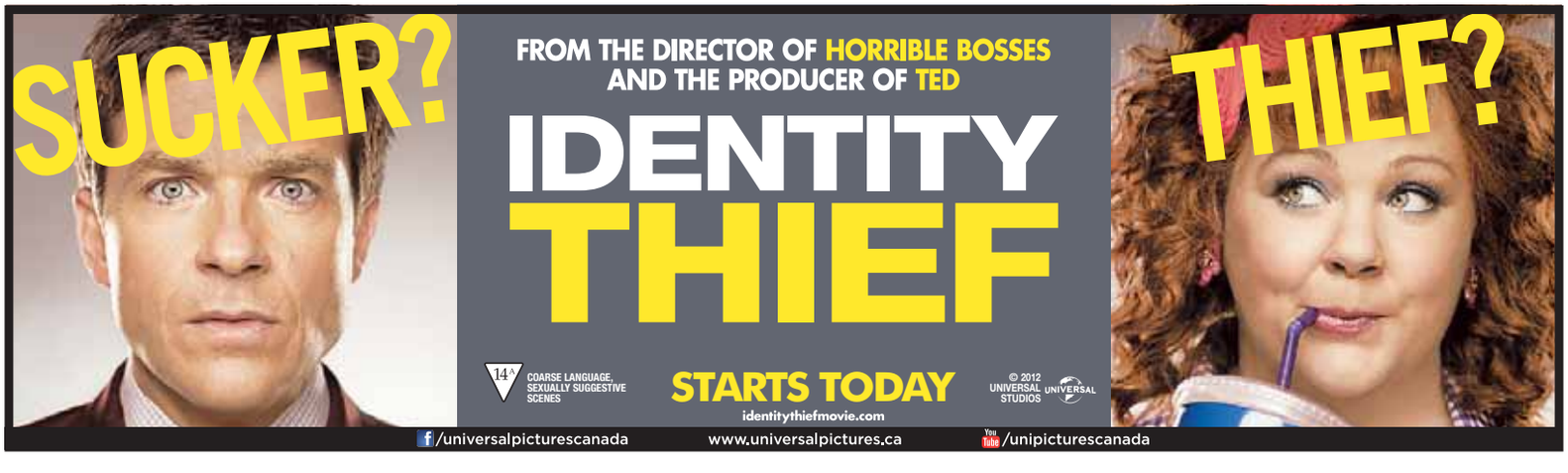
SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Beautiful Creatures (PG) No Passes Wed 10:15 No Passes Thu 1:40-4:25-7:25-10:15
The Borrowers (G) Sat 11
Bullet to the Head (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:25-10:45 Mon 1-3:20-5:35-7:55-10:15 Tue-Wed 3:20-5:35-7:55-10:15 Thu 3:15-5:35-7:55-10:20
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri 2:40-5:25-8:05-11 Sat 11:55-2:40-5:25-8:05-11 Sun 12:30-3:05-5:40-8:20-11 Mon 12:45-3:30-10:30 Tue 2:10-5-7:40-10:30 Wed 2:10-5-7:40
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 2:35-5-7:30-10:05
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-6-8:15-10:35 Mon 12:50-3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 Tue 3:05-5:25-7:45-10 Wed 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:10 Thu 3:20-5:40-8-10:25
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 3-6:45-10:25 Sat 11:25-3-6:45-10:25 Sun 3-6:45-10:25 Mon 1:10-4:55-8:35 Tue 2:40-6:30-10:05 Wed 3:15-9:35 Sun 12:05
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri 2:35-5:15-8-10:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:40 No Passes Mon 12-2:35-5:10-7:55-10:30 No Passes Tue 2-4:45-7:30-10:10 No Passes Wed 9:40 No Passes Thu 2-4:30-7:20-10:10 No Passes Wed 1:45-4:30-7:10
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Sat 1:25-4:25-7:20-10:15 Sun 12:10-4:25-7:20-10:15 Mon 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:45 Tue-Wed 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:55 Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05-10
Love Story (18A) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
Mama (14A) Fri 1-3:20-5:45-8:20-10:55 Sat 1:10-3:20-5:45-8:20-10:55 Sun 3:20-5:45-8:20-10:55 Mon 12:55-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:25 Tue 3-5:30-8-10:20 Wed 1:55-4:25-7 Thu 2:10-4:35-7-9:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Les Misérables (PG) Fri 3:30-6:55-10:20 Sat 11:45-3:30-6:55-10:20 Sun 12-3:25-6:50-10:20 Mon 1:15-4:40-8:15 Tue-Wed 2:45-6:20-9:50
Safe Haven (PG) Thu 1:35-4:10-7:10-9:55
Side Effects (14A) Fri 2:55-5:30-8:10-10:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon 12-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:20 Tue-Wed 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25 Thu 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 1:10-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:30 Sat 11 Mon 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:35-10 Tue-Wed 2:20-4:50-7:15-9:45 Thu 2:20-4:50-7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:30

New West/ Coquitlam

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Beautiful Creatures (PG) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:40-7:40-10:40 No Passes Wed 10:30 No Passes Thu 3:30-6:30-9:20
The Borrowers (G) Sat 11
Bullet to the Head (14A) Fri-Mon 3:25-5:50-8:15-10:50 Tue-Thu 2:30-5-7:45-10:15
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Sun 11:55-3:25-7-10:40 Mon 12-3:30-7-10:40 Tue 11:55-3:25-7-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:30-7-10:40 Fri-Tue 1:20-5-8:45 Wed 3:30-7
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri-Sat 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sun 4:50-7:35-10:20 Mon 2:10-4:55-7:35-10:20 Tue 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Wed 1:45-4:30-7:15 Thu 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10:15 No Passes Thu 4:45-7:30-10:20 No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:40 Fri-Tue 2:40-5:20-7:50-10:30 Wed 5:20-7:50



SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri-Thu 1
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-8:30
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:20-10:05 No Passes Wed 10:35 No Passes Thu 1:50-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Fri-Tue 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:45 No Passes Wed 4:30-7:20-10 No Passes Thu 2:45-5:20-8-10:45 No Passes Wed 2-4:40-7:20
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 1:35-4:30-9:50 Thu 1:35-4:30-7:30-10:30
Love Story (18A) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Encore (STC) Sat 9:55
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:25-6:55-10:30 Mon 12:05-3:30-6:55-10:30 Tue 12-3:25-6:55-10:30 Wed 3:25-6:55-10:30
Parker (14A) Fri-Sun 2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35 Mon 2:10-5-7:45-10:35 Tue 2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35 Wed 2:05-4:55-7:45
Quartet (PG) Fri 2-4:40-7:20-9:50 Sat 11:30-2-4:40-7:20-9:50 Sun-Tue 2-4:40-7:20-9:50 Wed 2-4:40-7:20-9:30 Thu 2-4:40-7:20-9:50 Fri-Tue 12:45-3:30-6:20-9 Wed 3:45-6:20-9
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Wed 1:05
Safe Haven (PG) Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20 Thu 4-7-9:50
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:50 Mon 12:25-3-5:35-8:10-10:50 Tue 12:20-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:50 Wed 5:30-8:10-10:45 Thu 12:25-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:10 Sat 11:10-1:10-4:15-7:15-10:10 Sun-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:10
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Wed 3:30-6:45-10
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sat 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:50-10:25 Mon-Tue 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Wed 5:20-7:50-10:25 Thu 12:30-2:55-5:30-8:10-10:25 Fri-Tue 1-4-6:50-9:30 Wed 4-6:40-9:30 Thu 3:05-6-8:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Mon 12:45
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:35 Mon 12:20-3:45-7:05-10:35 Tue 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:35 Wed 2:45-7:05-10:35 Thu 12:25-3:45-7:10-10:35

Surrey/White Rock/ Langley

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Casablanca (G) Thu 7
The Last Stand (14A) Fri-Wed 9:55
The Notebook (PG) Thu 9:05
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Wed 7

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (G) Fri-Mon 3
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri-Thu 9
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Thu 8
Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) Fri 4:40 Sat-Mon 4:40-6:30 Tue-Thu 6:30
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Mon 12:20-4:30 Tue-Thu 4:30
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G) Fri-Mon 2:40
Skyfall (PG) Fri-Thu 5
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30 Mon 12:30
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Mon 2:20-6:30 Tue-Thu 6:30
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (G) Fri-Mon 12:30
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Thu 8:45

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

ABCD - Any Body Can Dance 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1:25-5-9:15
Beautiful Creatures (PG) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15
The Borrowers (G) Sat 11
Bullet to the Head (14A) Fri 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:25 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:35 Mon 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:25 Tue 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:15-5:40-8:05-10:25
Django Unchained (14A) Fri 3:20-7-10:40 Sat 11:40-3:20-7-10:40 Sun 3:20-7-10:40 Mon 3:20-7-10:30 Tue 3:20-7-10:40 Wed 3:20-7-10:30
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:45-5:20-8-10:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Sun 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Mon 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:35 Tue 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:35
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 3-6:45-10:30 Sat 11:25-3-6:45-10:30 Sun-Wed 3-6:45-10:30
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:45 No Passes Mon 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:35 No Passes Tue 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:45 No Passes Wed 5:15-8-10:35 No Passes Thu 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:35 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15 Wed 1:15-4:15-7:10 Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:15
Mama (14A) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:40 Mon 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:05-10:25 Tue 12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:40 Wed 2:40-5-7:30
Race 2 (PG) Fri-Thu 2-6-9:30
Safe Haven (PG) Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:10-10:45
Sajjan: The Real Friend (STC) Fri-Thu 1-5:30-9
Tu Mera 22 Main Tera 22 (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:15-10:05
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Tue 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:35 Wed 5:30-8-10:30 Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Beautiful Creatures (PG) Thu 5:30-8:20
Bullet to the Head (14A) Fri 4:40-7:35-9:55 Sat-Mon 1:55-4:40-7:35-9:55 Tue 4:40-7:35-9:55 Wed-Thu 5:55-8:45
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Thu 5:10-5:40-8-8:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (18A) Fri Sat-Mon 2:10 Tue-Wed
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Tue 4:45-7:30-9:50 Wed-Thu 5:35-7:55
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 4:30-7:15-10 Sat-Mon 1:45-4:30-7:15-10 Tue 4:30-7:15-10 Wed-Thu 5:20-8:10
Mama (14A) Fri 4-7:25-9:50 Sat-Mon 1:35-4-7:25-9:50 Tue 4-7:25-9:50 Wed-Thu 5:25-7:50
Parker (14A) Fri 3:40-6:25-9:15 Sat-Mon 1-3:40-6:25-9:15 Tue 3:40-6:25-9:15 Wed-Thu 5:50-8:40
Pehchaan 3D (PG) Fri 4:20-6:55-9:35 Sat-Mon 1:40-4:20-6:55-9:35 Tue 4:20-6:55-9:35 Wed 5:10-8
Race 2 (PG) Fri 4:25-7:45 Sat-Mon 1:10-4:25-7:45 Tue 4:25-7:45 Wed 7:30
Safe Haven (PG) Thu 5:50-8:40
Side Effects (14A) Fri 3:55-7:05-9:45 Sat-Mon 1:20-3:55-7:05-9:45 Tue 3:55-7:05-9:45 Wed-Thu 5:45-8:35
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Tue 6:20-9:10 Wed 5:25-8:25
Sisterakas (PG) Fri 4:10-6:45-9:20 Sat-Mon 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:20 Tue 4:10-6:45-9:20 Wed-Thu 5:05-7:40
Special 26 (STC) Fri-Tue 3:15-6:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 5-8:15
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 4:35-7-9:30 Sat-Mon 2-4:35-7-9:30 Tue 4:35-7-9:30 Wed-Thu 5:15-7:45
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri 3:45 Sat-Mon 1:05-3:45 Tue 3:45

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Side Effects (14A) Fri 7:10-9:20 Sat-Mon 2-7:10-9:20 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:20
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Mon 2:10-7-9:15 Tue-Thu 7-9:15

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Django Unchained (14A) Fri 7:15 Sat-Mon 2-7:15 Tue-Wed 7:15
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) Thu 7:20-9:35
Identity Thief (14A) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Mon 2:30-7-9:25 Tue-Thu 7-9:25
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri 7:30-9:30 Sat-Mon 2:20-7:30-9:30 Tue-Thu 7:30-9:30
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri 7:45 Sat-Mon 2:10-7:45 Tue-Thu 7:45

Colossus Langley
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Beautiful Creatures (PG) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 4:20-7:25-10:25
The Borrowers (G) Sat 11
Bullet to the Head (14A) Fri-Mon 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-11 Tue-Wed 5:15-7:45-10:25 Thu 5:15-7:45-10:20
Django Unchained (14A) Fri-Mon 1:40-5:20-9 Tue-Thu 4-7:45
Gangster Squad (14A) Fri-Mon 12-2:40-5:20-8:05-10:55 Tue 4:40-7:25-10:05 Wed 4:40-7:25 Thu 4:40-7:25-10:05
A Good Day to Die Hard (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 5-7:30-10
A Good Day to Die Hard: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Wed 10 No Passes Thu 3-5:30-8-10:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (18A) Fri-Mon 1:20-3:40-6-8:20-10:45 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:35-10:05
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Fri 1:45 Sat-Mon 12
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Fri 5:25-9:15 Sat-Mon 2:45-6:30-10:15 Tue-Thu 4:30-8:30
Identity Thief (14A) No Passes Fri 1:50-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Sat 11:15-1:50-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Sun-Mon 1:50-4:30-7:15-10 No Passes Tue 4:10-7-9:45 No Passes Wed 7:30-9:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 4:10-4:40-7-7:30-9:45-10:15 No Passes Fri-Mon 12-2:35-5:15-8-10:45 No Passes Tue 4:40-7:30-10:15 No Passes Wed 4:10-7 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
The Impossible (14A) Fri 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20 Sat 11-1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20 Sun 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:20 Mon 12:40-3:30-10:40 Tue 4:05-7-9:55 Wed 4:05-7
Life of Pi 3D (G) Fri 1:15-4:15-7:25-10:20 Sat-Mon 11:45-4:15-7:25-10:20 Tue-Thu 3:50-7:10-10
Love Story (18A) Sun 12:45 Wed 7
Mama (14A) Fri-Mon 3:15-5:45-8:15-10:50 Tue-Wed 4:50-7:50-10:15
The Metropolitan Opera: Un Ballo in Maschera Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Les Misérables (PG) Fri-Mon 11:45-3:05-6:35-10:05 Tue-Thu 3:30-7-10:30
Parker (14A) Fri-Mon 2:20-5:05-7:55-10:55 Tue 4:15-7:05-10:20 Wed 4:15-10:20
Quartet (PG) Fri-Mon 11:55-2:20-5:7:40-10:10 Tue-Thu 3:45-6:55-9:40
Rise of the Guardians (G) Fri-Mon 11:50
Safe Haven (PG) Thu 4:05-7:10-10:15
Side Effects (14A) Fri-Mon 12:15-2:50-5:25-8:10-10:50 Tue-Thu 4:25-7:20-10:10
Silver Linings Playbook (14A) Fri-Mon 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:25 Tue-Thu 4:20-7:15-10:25
Stand Up Guys (14A) Fri-Sat 12:20-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:30 Sun 3:10-5:40-8:10-10:30 Mon 12:20-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:30 Tue-Wed 4:45-7:30-10 Thu 4:45-7:15-9:55
Top Gun: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Tue 5-7:45-10:30 Wed 5-7:30
Warm Bodies (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-3-5:30-7:55-10:35 Tue 4:45-7:20-9:55 Wed 7:20-9:55 Thu 4:45-7:20-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Wreck-It Ralph (G) Fri-Mon 12:25
Zero Dark Thirty (14A) Fri-Mon 12:05-3:30-7-10:25 Tue-Thu 3:35-7:05-10:30

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Liquid Assets

I love you in a wine glass

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This one is for all the lovers in the world. Well, at least for all you guys out there who haven't realized that Valentine's Day is this coming Thursday.

Why didn't Cupid just make V-Day the second Sunday of February so we could cook up an easy breakfast in bed for our sweeties accompanied by a glass of bubbly?

That would be too easy. This year, it's a weekday. So, if you're not going out on the town to show your devotion, at least bring her home (or him, girls) a bottle that's the liquid equivalent of an Enrique Iglesias album.

It wouldn't hurt if that vino paired well with a heart-shaped box of bonbons. Chocolate is a palate coating confection, so many wines lose their nuance when paired with it.

Reds work best, with Old Vine Zinfandels, ripe and ready Pinot Noirs and plump, thick-fruited Merlots all having a natural sweetness that gives them the edge if you're trying to match one wine with a variety of chocolate styles.

J. Lohr Estates' 2010 Los Osos Merlot ($19.95 to $22.99) from California's Paso Robles is a chewy burst of deep berry fruit that definitely brings the love.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

This recipe serves two. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Easy romantic dinner frees up time for love

Crab and Hearts of Palm Gratin with Arugula Salad. Make-ahead dish won't keep you in the kitchen

Not planning to go out for Valentine's Day? Time to start planning a special menu for a romantic night in.

This dish is warm, comforting and rich with flavours that say "you're special." It cooks up in a gratin dish, so you can assemble it ahead of time, then when you're ready to eat, just pop it in the oven.

While the gratin bakes, assemble the salad and serve everything together with a crusty baguette.

It's simple, special and perfect for an evening in.

1. Heat the oven to 375 F. Place 2 shallow individual-sized casserole or gratin dishes on a baking sheet.

2. Chop the artichoke hearts and hearts of palm into 1/2-inch pieces. In a medium bowl, gently stir the artichokes and hearts of palm with the thyme, lemon zest, cream, fontina, white pepper and crab. Spoon the mixture into the gratin dishes.

3. In a small bowl, stir together the breadcrumbs, paprika, salt and melted butter. Sprinkle over the gratins. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until bubbling.

4. While the gratins bake, make the salad. In a medium bowl, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, mustard and maple syrup. Add the arugula, cherries and almonds and gently toss to coat. Serve topped with sea salt and black pepper. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Ingredients

For the gratin
- 14-oz each cans artichoke hearts and hearts of palm, drained
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup grated fontina cheese
- 1/4 tsp ground white pepper
- 12 oz lump crab meat
- 1/3 cup panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 tsp sweet paprika
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tbsp butter, melted

For the salad:
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp maple syrup
- 2 cups baby arugula
- 1/4 cup fresh or dried cherries
- 2 tbsp toasted almonds
- Sea salt and ground black pepper

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Ayden Gallery Artist Collective

2103-88 WEST PENDER ST.

For art's sake, this Friday be sure to head down to the Ayden Gallery for an opening reception featuring the works of Antonis Ensoe, Adam Lupton, Jose Rivas and Nathan Grey. With live music helping set the stage for an elegant evening, mingle with other like-minded art aficionados, enjoy cocktails and partake in the auction. For more information about the gallery and event, visit: aydengallery.com. Reception takes place from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Just Opened: PiDGIN

350 CARRALL STREET

After a few construction delays, Vancouver's newest culinary hot spot has opened the doors of its Gastown locale featuring Asian fusion cuisine with a decidedly French twist. Look for plenty of Korean and Japanese-influenced dishes coupled with a sleek/sexy decor that will get the conversation flowing. With great cocktails, refreshingly simple dishes (courtesy of award-winning Canadian Culinary Champion Makoto Ono) and killer atmosphere (right down to the suspended meat cleaver and trio of quail suspended above the chef's table), this spot is definitely worth checking out. Find more info here: www.pidginvancouver.com.

Don't Miss: Beggars Banquet #008

213 EAST GEORGIA IN CHINATOWN

Be sure to head over and check out the latest offerings of this ultimate pop-up vintage market that has consistently seen top-notch offerings from the city's best boutiques and curio vendors alike. They've shifted locations to a bigger venue, due to demand, but still aim to feature their trademark eclectic collection. Look to score retro collectables, accessories, locally produced specialties and plenty more. Enjoy a bevy while you shop — there will be a cash bar on site to loosen up the wallet. Find all the details here: beggarsbanquetmonthly.tumblr.com.

Fill Up: Food Truck Fest at the Vancouver Farmers Market

4601 ONTARIO ST.

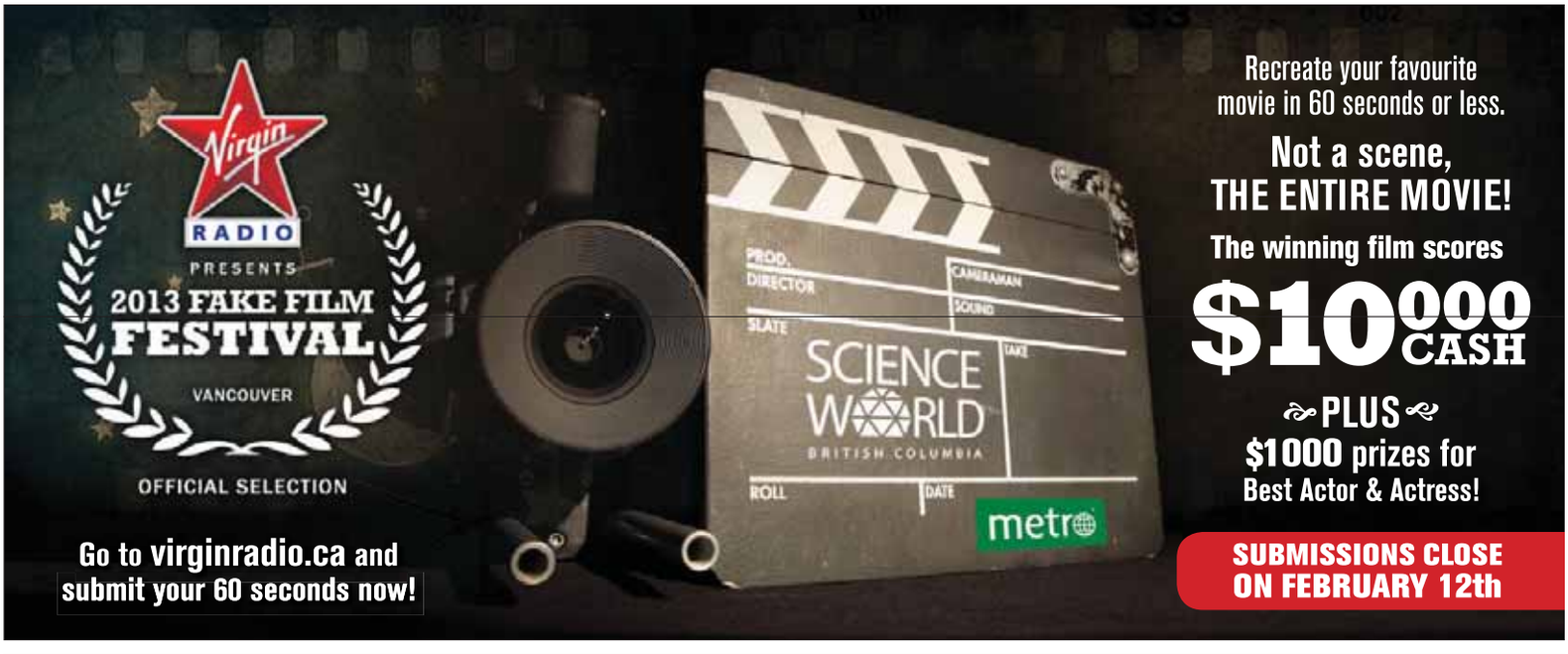
Be sure to head over to the Vancouver Farmers Market this Saturday and save plenty of space in your stomach for this drool-worthy festival. Located just outside of Nat Bailey Stadium, this Saturday is extra special, as it will feature a slew of food trucks (including plenty of noteworthy newbies). Enjoy feasting your way around the market, stocking up on goodies, live music and plenty more. For full details, visit eatlocal.org.
River Market's Great Canadian Winter Festival (810 Quayside Dr.).

Westminster River Market

Head out of downtown for a day at New Westminster's quaint River Market and you'll find plenty to keep you occupied and enlightened. They are hosting a weekend-long celebration of the season, featuring comedy shows, Chinese New Year dinner, a Vancouver Circus School demonstration, a speed-dating session at Wild Rice restaurant and plenty more. Find more info by visiting: rivermarket.ca.

Looking for a laugh?

Back for another year loaded with laughs, The Vancouver Comedy and Arts Festival will again see some of the best comedians from around the world converge on our city. Since its start in 2004, this festival has consistently drawn top talent and offers up a variety of funny fixes (look for the likes of Bob Saget, Martin Short, Reggie Watts and Margaret Cho to take the stage). Tickets are on sale now and more festival info can be found here: comedyfest.com.



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CHINESE NEW YEAR

Friday, February 8, 2013

Participants take part in last year's Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver annual Chinese New Year parade. Chinese New Year begins Feb. 10 and 2013 is the Year of the Snake. CONTRIBUTED

A year of introspection and reflection

Chinese New Year. 2013 is the Year of the Snake, which begins Feb. 10, first day of first lunar month

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Happy New Year — Chinese New Year, that is.

Also known as the Spring Festival, the Chinese New Year starts Feb. 10 (it always starts on the first day of the first lunar month), and it is the longest and most important of the traditional holidays, explains Jun Ing, vice-president of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver.

"That means lots of preparations and celebrations across Canada, especially in larger cities such as Vancouver and Toronto," Ing said.

The customs around Chinese New Year range from thoroughly cleaning your house beforehand "to sweep away any ill fortune" to replacing old plants with fresh flowers and plants to signify "new growth and beginnings." Windows and doors of homes and businesses are decorated with red paper decorations that have themes such as happiness, wealth and longevity.

On Chinese New Year's Eve, Chinese families often gather together at someone's home or a restaurant for an annual multi-course "reunion" dinner, explains Shirley Yum, a guide and culinary historian, A Taste of the World, Toronto. The feast features many traditional dishes such as Chinese dumplings, fish, spring rolls and sticky rice cake. Special menus and dishes are available at many Chinese restaurants throughout the holiday.

Last year's Chinese Benevolent Association of Vancouver annual Chinese New Year parade. CONTRIBUTED

Many communities have parades, too. The 40th annual Vancouver Chinese New Year Parade, for example, features traditional lion and dragon dancers, marching bands and martial arts performances. It's being held Feb. 17 in Chinatown with fireworks to signal the start of the parade.

Ing says the Vancouver Chinatown Spring Festival Celebration Committee also organizes a gala banquet for approximately 1,000 people at the end of the parade, as well as a cultural fair Feb. 16-17 in the courtyard near the Chinese Cultural Centre.

Develop new skills

The Year of the Snake will be a year of culture, introspection and self-development, according to Shirley Yum from A Taste of the World, who introduces people to diverse cultures and their food in Toronto neighbourhoods.

"You should feel a state of calm come over you as the Year of the Water Snake kicks off on Sunday, Feb. 10," Lum said. "The belief is you have a 12-year cycle, and each year takes on characteristics of that animal.

"We're finishing off the Year of the Dragon, which was all about opportunity. The Year of the Snake will be a reflective year — and your own animal sign will take on those attributes and react to them."

What can you do to get the most out of the year? "Sign up for workshops and develop new skills."

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Oprah Winfrey. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Martha Stewart. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Celebrities born in the Year of the Snake

Snakes can be seducers, but they are also prone to lashing out in anger. Here are some celebrities born in the Year of the Snake such as 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001 and 2013:

- Charlie Sheen
- Sarah Jessica Parker
- Hulk Hogan
- Martha Stewart
- Kanye West
- Oprah Winfrey
- Marlon Brando
- Pablo Picasso
- John F. Kennedy

Charlie Sheen, left, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kanye West.

Double Happiness recipe. Braised Shiitake Mushrooms on Sweet Peas

Ingredients:

- 2½ tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 slices ginger, skinned and chopped
- 1 piece garlic, crushed
- 1 to 1½ lbs fresh shiitake mushroom, cleaned
- 2½ cups water
- 1 tbsp T&T Korean Kalbi Marinade Sauce, pictured (available at Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore and select Zehrs, Valu-Mart, Your Independent Grocer, Extra Foods, and nofrills)
- 1 tsp oyster sauce
- 1 tsp hoisin sauce
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp chili bean sauce
- ½ lbs sweet peas, rinsed
- Pinch salt

Cornstarch mixture:

- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2 tbsp water

Instructions:

1 Heat 2 tbsp oil in a wok on high; sizzle in ginger and garlic. Add shiitake mushrooms and ½ cup of water, mix well. Add the T&T Korean Kalbi Marinade Sauce, oyster sauce, chili bean sauce, hoisin sauce and sugar, stir and cook for 1 minute. Turn heat to medium-low, cover and cook for 4 to 5 minutes or until mushrooms are tender. Turn heat to a low simmer.

2 Bring 2 cups of water in a medium saucepan to a boil on high. Add ½ tbsp of oil and a pinch of salt, add peas. Blanch for 30 seconds (longer if less crunchy peas are preferred). Turn off heat. Strain peas and transfer to a deep dish.

3 Bring mushroom mixture back to a boil. Prepare cornstarch mixture: Mix cornstarch and water together in a bowl. Slowly pour into wok, stir well. Turn off heat and serve on top of the peas. Serves 4 to 6 with steamed rice.

RECIPE COURTESY OF T&T SUPERMARKET

Shiitake mushrooms. RON CHAPPLE STUDIOS/THINKSTOCK

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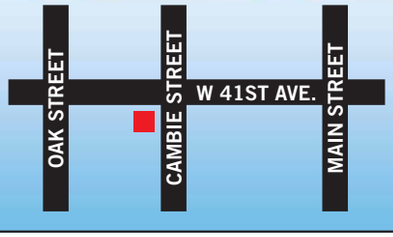

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Whitecaps' Mattocks sets sights high

Confidence is not something Darren Mattocks lacks.

The Vancouver Whitecaps' 22-year-old striker told Martin MacMahon of MLSsoccer.com in an article published online Thursday: "Without injury or without cards or mishaps, I think I can get 20 goals this season."

He's standing by that.

"It's not something to back away from," Mattocks said in a phone interview from Casa Grande, Ariz., where the Whitecaps are holding training camp.

But Mattocks, entering his second season with the Whitecaps and Major League Soccer, doesn't want to be misunderstood.

The 20-goal mark is something he's setting his sights to, not predicting.

"I don't want people to take it the wrong way."

He reiterated and emphasized that "if all goes well" he can hit that plateau, which only one player — Chris Wondolowski with his 27 goals — did last season.

"If anyone gets 20 goals in a season, it's extremely amazing. That's the standard that I set for myself," said Mattocks, who opened the exhibition season with a hat trick against the New England Revolution.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Darren Mattocks GETTY IMAGES FILE

Vancouver Canucks Jason Garrison, left, and Kevin Bieksa, right, slow down Matt Cullen of the Minnesota Wild on Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

Schneider sharp in taming the Wild

NHL. No. 1 goalie stops 22 of 23 shots in Canucks' fourth straight victory

Cory Schneider made 22 saves and Mason Raymond had a power-play goal and an assist in the second period to lead Vancouver past the sputtering Minnesota Wild 4-1 on Thursday night, the fourth straight win for the Canucks.

Niklas Backstrom gave up two scores in each of the first two periods for the Wild, and Josh Harding was in the net for the final frame. Daniel Sedin, Chris Higgins and Jannik Hansen also had goals for the Canucks, whose shutout was spoiled by Tom Gilbert's power-play slap shot with 12:35 left.

After scoring four times in their season opener, the Wild had only 16 goals over their previous eight games. Schneider had a big hand — and stick — in extending the slide.

Despite Roberto Luongo owning the league's third-best goals-against average after playing the last four games, the veteran has struggled here in recent years. So Schneider backed up coach Alain Vigneault's trust in giving him the start.

On Thursday

Canucks	Wild
4	1

After allowing five goals on 14 shots in the opener, Schneider got back on track in a big way against the division-rival Wild.

Winless in four road games this season, the Wild returned home vowing not to worry about the slow start, trying out yet another new menu of forward groups as coach Mike Yeo continues to try to coax more scoring out of this deep offence. Rookie Charlie Coyle was on the first line for his first NHL home game with Zach Parise and Mikko Koivu, and slumping Dany Heatley was down on the second trio with Matt Cullen and Pierre-Marc Bouchard.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Olympics

Price of ski jump could cost official his job

A year before the 2014 Winter Olympics are to begin, President Vladimir Putin has demanded that a senior member of the Russian Olympic Committee be fired, apparently due to cost overruns in host city Sochi — a demand certain to be fulfilled.

The current price tag for the Sochi Games is $51 billion US, which would make them the most expensive games in the history of the Olympics.

The official facing dismissal, Akmet Bilalov, had a company that was building the ski jump and its adjacent facilities before selling its stake to state-owned Sberbank last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Skiing

Guay gives course the thumbs-down

Defending champion Erik Guay of Canada criticized the men's downhill course at the world ski championships in Schladming, Austria, after training on Thursday, calling one of the jumps "way too big."

Guay said he hurt his back while landing after the 30-metre jump.

"That's ridiculous," he said. "Any course you should be able to push in the first training run and not have to worry about injuries like that."

The height of the jump was causing problems because racers land on a flat part of the slope, the skier said. FIS men's race director Guenter Hujara said course workers would try to slightly lower the jump before Friday's second training. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The sun shines over the ski stadium during the FIS Cross-Country World Cup in Sochi, Russia, on Feb. 3. The Sochi Olympics are a year away and the weather may be the biggest hurdle to overcome for Russia to claim a success story. IGOR YAKUNIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A warm welcome awaits Olympians

Countdown to Sochi.
Weather could prove a stumbling block at next Winter Games

The Sochi Olympics are a year away and already there are worries about Circassian Muslim unrest, transportation headaches and even earthquakes.

But the weather may be the biggest hurdle to overcome for Russia to claim a success story.

If you thought the 2010 Vancouver Games had issues, just wait.

"In Canada, if somebody said, 'Pick the least likely place for a Winter Games,' I would have picked Vancouver and, in Russia, I would have picked Sochi," says Environment Canada's senior climatologist, David Phillips.

"I think we think we can fool Mother Nature sometimes."

Sochi was Joseph Stalin's cottage retreat, where he had his favourite "dacha" or summer house, a bit of a misnomer since it's as big as some modest resort hotels. You can still take a tour.

Think of it as Russia's Florida, festooned with palm trees and located on the northeastern coast of the Black Sea, just a little north of Turkey and northeast of Greece. The climate is classified as subtropical.

Phillips looked at data for both Sochi and the ski resort of Krasnaya Polyana and compared them with Vancouver and Whistler.

The city will be the site of the "coastal cluster," as organizers have dubbed it, for arena-based sports, while the "mountain cluster" will host skiing, snowboarding and bobsledding events. Each will have its own Olympic village.

"In Sochi you can enjoy a warm southern sea as well as high, snow-covered mountains," organizers boast.

It can snow in Sochi proper but it's not exactly a regular occurrence, as average daytime temperatures, Phillips says, are around the 9 C range in February. The record though is about 24 C.

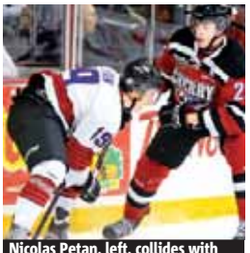
That's even warmer than Vancouver, which has an average daytime temperature of 8 C in February, and had more than its share of weather-related problems at the last Winter Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They'll be ... doing everything possible to make it into a winter wonderland."

Environment Canada's senior climatologist David Phillips on the Sochi Winter Games

WHL. Winterhawks B.C. native Nicolas Petan's draft stock on the rise



Nicolas Petan, left, collides with Darnell Nurse in the CHL Top Prospects Game in January. GETTY IMAGES

It's not a big shock that a member of the Portland Winterhawks leads the Western Hockey League in scoring. What is rather surprising is the name at the top of the list.

Many hockey observers expected the spot to be occupied by St. Louis Blues prospect Ty Rattie, whose 57 goals and 121 points last season were more than anyone returning to major junior hockey this season.

Instead, it's Rattie's teammate, Nicolas Petan, who's piling up huge numbers in his second year with the Winterhawks. Petan, a native of Delta, B.C., has recorded 36 goals and 94 points in 54 games for a Portland team that's ranked No. 1 in the CHL and has a 43-8-1-2 record.

Not bad for a guy who served mostly as a fourth-liner as a 16-year-old rookie and failed to record a point in 22 playoff games last season.

Petan's meteoric rise has taken the five-foot-nine, 165-pound centre from off the NHL draft radar to a possible first- or second-round selection this summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It's OK to get angry if someone has done you wrong but don't take it too far and turn it into a vendetta. It may be frustrating that you can't seem to change their ways but that's just the way it is. Live with it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Read between the lines if you want to find out what is really going on. Once you have cracked the code, you can use what you learn to strengthen your own position. Are we talking blackmail here? Maybe!

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Your intuition is trying to tell you something important but the rational part of your mind refuses to accept it. Turn your logic circuits off for a bit and let the deeper part of your nature come through.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Be nice to partners and loved ones today because you will need their assistance over the weekend. Think before you speak or act. Try to see what effect your words might have. It never hurts to look ahead.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The planets will expand your horizons today and help you find interesting things in even the most tedious of tasks. It's not what you do that matters so much as the attitude you choose to take while doing it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's Mars-Mercury link in your opposite sign may make it seem as if the world is against you but you know it's not true. End this week and start the next in the same fashion: Don't take anything too seriously.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will be rather suspicious as to other people's motives today, to the extent that you turn down their offers of assistance. Later on, you may look back and wish you had not been quite so distrustful.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Certain people need reminding that you are a free individual and not a servant to be used as they see fit. If your present work environment does not suit you, it's time to change it.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Put your own needs first and ignore those who say you are being selfish. Maybe you are but there were plenty of times in the past when you sacrificed your own desires to help other people. Remind them of that.

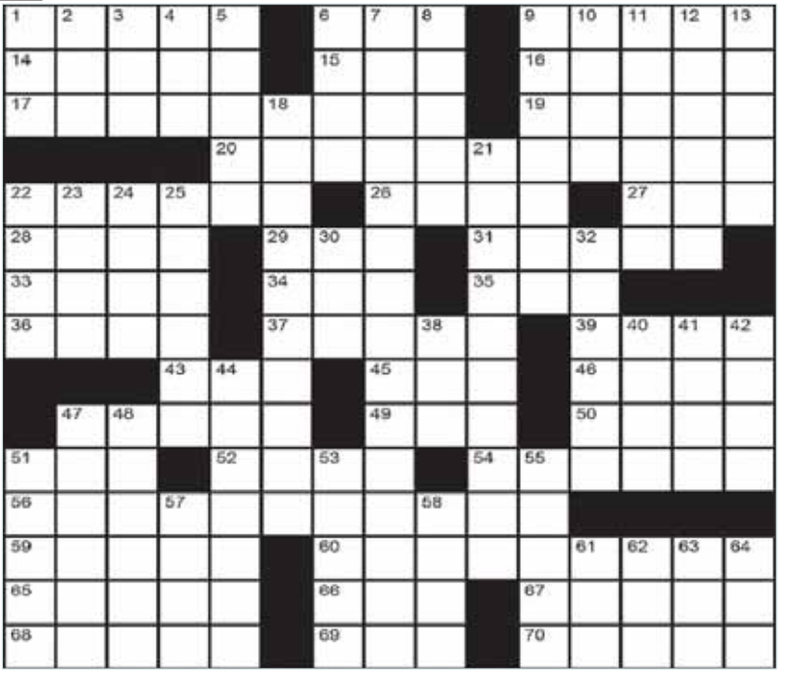
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Try not to be suspicious if a rival pays you a compliment. According to the planets, they are making a genuine attempt to bury the hatchet. Respond in kind and show them you appreciate the effort.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you rely on what other people tell you today, chances are you will head off in completely the wrong direction. The words people use are important, of course, but trust your intuition if it tells you something different.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Mars in your sign makes you determined to get the most out of every minute, and that's good, but don't throw yourself blindly at every challenge that comes along. Your time and energy are precious, so use them wisely. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

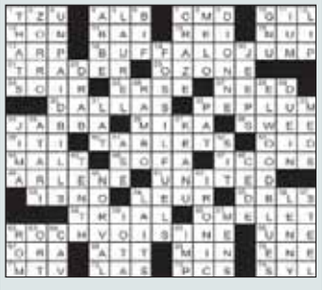
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. UK's Oscar equivalent
6. Shopping or To-Do, e.g.
9. Hairstylist's tools
14. "Let __ __!" (Start!)
15. News agcy.
16. Aunt's hubby, in Quebec
17. Quebec City founder in 1608, Samuel de __
19. "__ Work It Out" by The Beatles: 2 wds.
20. The __ (North-of-Montreal skiing region)
22. Alex of "Jeopardy!"
26. Prefix with 'logical'
27. Pres. Eisenhower
28. Annoy
29. 'Filb' finisher (Nut)
31. Ms. Stefani, and others
33. Role in "The Producers" (2005)
34. Zodiac's roarer
35. 'Pepper' add-on (Pizza topping)
36. Mountain stat.
37. Grams __ __ (Nutritional info)
39. Scientology founder, _. __ Hubbard
43. Hosp. area
45. Numerical prefix
46. Overseas currency
47. Seaweed-wrapped appetizer
49. Bit of Beatles: "Isn't __ _ bit like..."
50. 'Refer' suffix
51. Vienna is its cap.
52. "_ __ dead people." (#13-Down line)
54. Tiger type
56. "Born to Be Wild" band
59. Elvis line: "We're caught in _ __..."
60. 1991 Nirvana album
65. France's longest river
66. "This ___ surprise!"
67. __ space
68. Concluded
69. Cardinals player's baseball cap letters
70. Russian negativess

Down
1. Ballpoint brand
2. Sports fig.
3. Lobster __ Diavolo (Seafood dish with pasta)
4. Director Mr. Burton
5. Crunchy fruit
6. Hawaiian feast
7. "And If Venice Is Sinking" band: 4 wds.
8. Like a fork
9. Calgary's nickname
10. "Dedicated to the __ _ Love" by The Shirelles
11. Canadian frozen fries maker
12. Spaces
13. "The Sixth __" (1999)
18. Banff National Park sight: 2 wds.
21. On the table, as a deal
22. Genuine
23. Streamlet
24. Fashion magazine
25. "__ and Butt-Head"
30. NHL official
32. '80s hit: "Come On __"
38. I am. You __.
40. Ladder step
41. Whale movie
42. Liam's Oasis brother
44. Nicked, as nail polish
47. Canadian real estate company
48. Logging-on name, ___ _
51. Make _ __ (Do store business)
53. Heath's "Brokeback Mountain" (2005) role
55. Actor Zac
57. Canadian actress Jessica of "Mad Men"
58. Face shape
61. Very: Spanish
62. 'Meteor' suffix
63. Hair holder
64. Li'l physicians

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	3					8	
6					2		4	
5			1		9	7		
	9			1		5		2
8		6		7			1	
		4	8		3			1
	6		7					3
	3					9	5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	5	1	3	7	4	2	6
3	2	6	5	4	9	1	8	7
1	4	7	2	6	8	3	5	9
4	6	3	9	5	2	8	7	1
2	1	8	6	7	3	5	9	4
5	7	9	8	1	4	2	6	3
9	3	2	7	8	1	6	4	5
7	5	4	3	2	6	9	1	8
6	8	1	4	9	5	7	3	2

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